OPD wants to see more docs in case vs man who rammed car. PAGE 3
DPS responds to a distressed vessel off Saipan waters. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

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CNMI total now at 54 cases

» Mass testing resumes today
» Torres: I will not hesitate to shut down NMI again

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One more person tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday, this time not an incoming traveler but an individual who was identified through contact tracing from the 50th case, raising the CNMI's total number of positive cases to 54.

Updated CBT dates for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

Island	Date	Time	Location	Drive-Thru/ Walk-Up
Saipan	8/21/2020	8:30am-11:00am	Garapan Fishing Base	Both
Tinian	8/19/2020	9:00am-11:00am 1:00pm-3:00pm	Tinian Health Center	Walk-Up
Rota	8/19/2020	1:00pm-4:00pm	Rota Health Center	Walk-Up

Meanwhile, the mass testing, called CNMI Community-Based Testing Initiative, will resume for the next four weeks starting today, Aug. 19, 2020.

Since April 28, 2020, the CNMI's mass tests have tested a total of 12,681 people for COVID-19 on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This is approximately 24% of the CNMI's population.

In the latest case, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force said that

See TOTAL on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 18, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	558	19	577
Recovered	352	1	353
Active	200	19	219
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	29,371		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	53	1	54
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	12,681**		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

REBURIAL
A total of 36 ancestral remains are reburied in a ceremony last Friday within the Surfrider Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa. The remains were dug up during the construction of the hotel. The reburial ceremony was done by the CNMI Historic Prevention Office, in partnership with Surfrider Resort Hotel's mother company, Triple J Saipan, Inc.

CHEVY ALIPIO

See Story on Page 4

US govt rests case in Atalig trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After the testimony of the U.S. government's 19th witness yesterday afternoon, the prosecution rested its case in the ongoing jury trial of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig.

The defense then moved for judgment of acquittal.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said she will reserve ruling on the motion until the defendants' present-

See ATALIG on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
- Defense grills OPA investigator Hurst over job experience. PAGE 2

NMI's 'high-risk' designation withdrawn

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has retracted its designation of the CNMI as a high-risk area and has lowered its travel alert for the CNMI to Level 2, which means that travelers' risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the CNMI is "moderate" and that new cases are either decreas-

See HIGH-RISK on Page 4

CWs return $108K so far to DOL

» $19M in PUA in the next two weeks

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The return rate is "going well" for CW-1 workers who have received the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, according to the CNMI Department of La-

See CWS on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
360 Revolving Restaurant revamped its menu after new management took over in October 2019.

PAGE 11

NATION
The House prepares an emergency vote to halt mail delivery delays and service changes.

PAGE 12

ASIA
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has decided to ease a mild lockdown in the capital.

PAGE 13

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, and Efraim Atalig's court-appointed counsel, David G. Banes, walk from the main entrance of the U.S. Courthouse in Gualo Rai after the trial Monday afternoon. Also in the photo is the Ataligs' private investigator, former FBI special agent Jeremy Wolfe. The trial of the Ataligs resumed yesterday, Tuesday. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Defense grills OPA investigator Hurst over job experience

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the ongoing jury trial of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, the defense counsel poked holes on the credibility of Office of the Public Auditor investigator Travis Hurst on Monday.

After Hurst completed his testimony, the prosecution called to the witness stand Rota community service employee Mary O. Atalig, Guam-based Chelsea Ann F. Aquai, Commonwealth Arts Council executive director Parker Yobei, and Robert H. Hunter who is the secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and also the senior policy adviser for the Office of the Governor.

Aquiai testified through video teleconference from Guam. She said she was in charge of the participants' registry for Haya Foundation's 3rd Amot Conference in Guam in 2018.

The trial resumed yesterday at the U.S. Courthouse in Gualo Rai.

Steven P. Pixley and David G. Banes were the court-appointed counsel for Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, respectively.

In his cross-examination of Hurst, Banes questioned data on Hurst's job application to the Department of Public Safety, the Office of the Attorney General Investigative Unit, and Office of the Public Auditor. Banes pointed out that Hurst wrote in his résumé that he served as a reserved police officer from 2001 to 2010. He said it was actually from 2007 to 2010, or for only three years, that before that he served as a "police explorer," a career-oriented program that gives young adults the opportunity to experience a career in law enforcement.

Hurst disagreed with Banes that he was overstating his work experience to get the jobs with DPS, OAG, and OPA.

Hurst testified how an anonymous tip to OPA about a big delegation from Rota going on a trip in Guam for a political rally started the investigation that led to the indictment of the Ataligs. Hurst testified about the trips that the Ataligs made, how much they received in per diems, and the true purpose of such trips, among other things.

In a related development, the U.S. Marshal Service served the court's subpoenas last Aug. 4 that commanded 21 Rota residents to appear in court for the trial. Efraim Atalig requested the subpoenas.

Subpoenaed are Dean Manglona, Esther A. Yatar, Concepcion San Nicolas Ulloa, Mary Elizabeth P. San Nicolas, David M. Santos, Bert Ogo, Magdalena San Nicolas Mesngon, Thomas D. Mendiola, Sandra M. Masga, and Glenn L. Maratita.

Also subpoenaed are Sharon A. Manglona, Josepha Manglona, Joaquina King, Joseph S. Inos, Joel Hocog, George O. Hocog, Aubry Hocog, Rita M. Garces, Noel M. Calvo, Vanessa L.G. Charfauros, and Valeria Q. Apatang.

The Ataligs are charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

Time for a
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(Upon Availability)
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10% Off Dinner at Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood
10% Off Couple's Massages at ARC Spa
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Special Rate! $140 Per Night +15% Tax
MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL, BOOK OUR
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
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50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
20% Off Dinner at Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood
10% Off all ARC Café Items
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ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
*Special Rate valid for stay duration within July 24, 2020 - August 31, 2020
*Reservations available on Friday and Saturday only
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with any other specials or promotions.
*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rate

IN FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLER SUIT

AG certifies then-DFEMS chief Norita was acting within scope of employment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan certified Monday that Claudio K. Norita was acting within the scope of his employment as then-commissioner of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services when the allegations arose in connection with a lawsuit filed by a company that is engaged in the installation of a fire sprinkler system.

Horey

Manibusan informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the Commonwealth shall be substituted for Norita as a defendant in the lawsuit filed by Double A Corp.

The OAG did not provide other details in the certification.

Double A Corp. filed the lawsuit in March 2019 against Norita and then-DFEMS fire inspector Anthony Babauta for allegedly causing it to lose $410,150 when they refused to accept its permit application. Double A Corp., through counsel Joseph E. Horey, are suing Norita and Babauta for deprivation of property without due process. Double A is demanding unspecified damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Double A specializes in installing fire sprinkler system and fire suppression.

According to Horey in the complaint, Double A, which had won a contract to install a fire sprinkler system in a complex of buildings operated by Proper Grand CNMI LLC, known as Sugar King Dormitory, had applied for a permit to install the sprinkler system, but Babauta allegedly refused to accept the application.

Horey said Double A appealed Babauta's refusal to Norita but the commissioner also refused to accept any permit application from Double A and failed to state the reasons for his rejection of the application.

Horey said the failed contract was for a price of $410,150.

OPD wants to see more docs in case vs man who rammed another car

The Office of the Public Defender has asked the Superior Court to order the Office of the Attorney General to produce all notes, police reports, and videos taken by the government in connection with the case against a 68-year-old man accused of trying to run over a man with a car and repeatedly ramming a parked vehicle in Kagman 3.

Assistant public defender Vina Seelam, who is counsel for Vicente Basa, asserted Monday that the only evidence the government had provided to Basa was the complaint and affidavit of probable cause.

At the hearing, the OAG offered only one witness, police detective Daniel Kaipat, Seelam said, who attested to various facts that he learned both from witness interviews he did himself as well as observations and interviews made by police officer Christopher Mendiola.

She said Kaipat also offered testimony based on his observations of a cellphone video of the incident, which was taken by another person. According to Kaipat, the person who took the video gave him a copy, which he then copied and gave to the OAG.

Seelam said none of the notes or reports were provided to the defense prior to the preliminary hearing, and that the OAG also failed to provide a copy of the video.

Tthe preliminary hearing was suspended and continued to Sept. 9, 2020, to allow for briefing and argument related to Basa's request for materials relevant to the hearing.

Assistant attorney general Steven C. Kessell filed an information charging Basa with assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault, two counts of criminal mischief, disturbing the peace, driving without a driver's license, reckless driving, and theft of vehicle.

After it was established during cross-examination that Kaipat had relied on the various witness interviews and the video when seeking to establish probable cause at the preliminary hearing, the defense asked the court to order the OAG to provide all notes, police reports, and video to the defense.

Seelam said the defendant has both a statutory and a constitutional right to effectively cross-examine the government's witnesses at a preliminary hearing, and effective cross-examination requires the disclosure of materials relevant to the probable cause determination prior to the preliminary hearing.

She said the defense should have the opportunity to verify Kaipat's testimony using the original witness statements themselves.

According to Kaipat in his report, the Department of Public Safety received a call last Aug. 3 at 5:15pm about three persons fighting along Lalangha Avenue in Kagman 3.

Kaipat said investigation showed that earlier that day at 4:30pm, Basa tried to rent a vehicle in As Lito but, when

See OPD on Next Page

36 ancestral remains reburied

The CNMI Historic Prevention Office in partnership with Triple J Saipan, Inc. reburied last Friday 36 ancestral remains that were dug up during the construction of Surfrider Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

HPO administrator Rita Chong thanked Triple J for working with the agency in helping reinter the island's forefathers in their final resting place.

"We've been planning this burial for almost a year but we had a lot of things happening. I really commend Triple J for being very proactive in wanting to do the right thing to provide a beautiful resting place for our ancestors," she said.

The reinternment ceremony was followed by old rituals. "We did some research and found some observations from the Spanish priest about what he wrote about burial rituals," said Chong.

The remains were put in cloth bags, then in woven baskets wrapped in banana mats, that were then reburied.

According to Chong, staff of the Indigenous Affairs Office led the procession with blowing of the *kulu* (shell horn) and having them recite several Chamorro chants. "The *kulu* signifies to everybody on the island that this important event is happening and the end of blowing the *kulu* means to say 'goodbye.'"

"This is the first-ever burial of this kind in the CNMI," Chong added.

The ceremony, she said, signifies that "we are not treating ancient remains just as archeological finds and putting them in boxes and in crypts. Now we are doing appropriate cultural burial rituals."

People of the CNMI are able to pray and meditate when visiting the resting place of the ancestral remains. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

ATALIG

From Page 1

ed their case.

Manglona said counsel for Efraim Atalig made arguments that she did not expect in the motion for judgment of acquittal on Count 3 of the superseding indictment.

It was attorney Joseph Horey who argued Efraim Atalig's motion for judgment of acquittal as to Count 3. Attorney Cong Nie argued Efraim Atalig's motion for judgment of acquittal as to the remaining counts.

David G. Banes is the court-appointed counsel for Efraim Atalig. Banes, Horey, and Nie are members of the same law firm.

Steven P. Pixley, the court-appointed counsel for Evelyn Atalig, argued for judgment of acquittal as to the charge of false statement. Pixley said Evelyn Atalig joined Efraim Atalig's arguments in the motion for judgment of acquittal as to the remaining charges.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley argued for the U.S. government's opposition to the motion.

O'Malley cited witnesses' testimony and documents as sufficient evidence to sustain a conviction of all charges against Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig.

On Horey's argument as to Count 3, O'Malley said this is a legal argument that should have been brought in a motion earlier in the case.

The trial will resume today, Wednesday, at 9:15am.

After Star Marianas Air Inc. president Shaun Christian completed his testimony, O'Malley informed the court that the U.S. government rests.

Former Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis Mendiola, and former representative Alice Igitol were among those who testified for the U.S. government yesterday.

In Efraim Atalig's motion for judgment of acquittal, Horey argued that the evidence is insufficient to sustain a conviction of theft from a program receiving federal funds. On the contrary, Horey said, the evidence shows that Efraim Atalig cannot be in violation of the statute, which requires that a defendant be the agent of the same government whose funds he misappropriates.

Since the evidence has indisputedly shown that Efraim Atalig is mayor of Rota, while the funds at issue were those of the CNMI, two separate governments are involved, and the statutory element cannot be met, he said.

In a brief in support of motion for judgment of acquittal, Banes said Efraim Atalig is alleged in the superseding indictment to have been an agent "of a local government."

Banes said on that point the indictment is accurate, as the evidence has shown that Efraim Atalig is now, and was at the time of the events at issue, the mayor of Rota.

He said the CNMI, as a commonwealth of the U.S., is thus clearly a "state," while anything pertaining to the municipality of Rota would be defined as "local," since Rota is a political subdivision within the CNMI.

Banes pointed out that Efraim Atalig, as mayor of Rota, is therefore an "agent of a local government," as alleged.

Citing the district court's previous ruling, Banes said the court found the CNMI was not liable for a debt incurred by the mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, since the mayor of a municipality is not a part of the Commonwealth executive branch, nor is he an agent of the Commonwealth, unless he is also a resident department head.

Banes said Efraim Atalig was not an agent of the CNMI, nevertheless he is charged in this case with fraudulently obtaining funds belonging to the CNMI.

He said all the trial evidence has also shown that the funds that Efraim Atalig obtained and used—whether wrongfully or not—were the property of the CNMI.

"The evidence therefore shows that the government of which Mr. Atalig was an agent, and the government whose property he allegedly misappropriated, were two different governments," Banes said.

The Ataligs are charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

HIGH-RISK

From Page 1

ing or stable.

"COVID-19 risk in the Northern Mariana Islands is moderate. Over the last 28 days, new cases of COVID-19 in the Northern Mariana Islands decreased or stabilized," said CDC in its website.

CDC still recommends that older adults, people of any age with underlying medical conditions, and those who are at risk for severe illness should reconsider nonessential travel.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña announced the CDC revision yesterday during a regular radio briefing. "In our latest conversation over this past weekend is that they were going to lower the risk of the travel alert that was issued where the territories were Level 3. We have been shifted down to Level 2," she said.

Additionally, Muña stated that there will be a new approach with quarantine, that they might be taking a stricter route when it comes to quarantine by extending quarantine days.

"Our medical team always communicates with the CDC in regards to each case. Each case is different, and we follow CDC guidelines for those that are in isolation and in quarantine," said Muña.

TOTAL

From Page 1

CHCC has begun contact tracing for the most immediate contacts such as family members and friends of the new confirmed case.

CHCC confirms that the individual is in the designated isolation where they can closely monitor the individual. "These findings underscore the value of rapid field investigation, which relies heavily on truthfulness of the community," said a statement attributed to CHCC and the task force.

Meanwhile, IFASHION management has issued a statement in reaction to a video going around on social media that claims that the recent positive case is from the IFASHION Salon and Spa in Garapan. They said they requested that their salon be sanitized yesterday for staff and customers' safety, and that all IFASHION's staff have tested negative as of Aug. 17. "To all our customers that visited us recently, you can have yourself checked also if you are in doubt and for your safety," said management.

Since the 50th and 54th cases are linked, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres says that he will not hesitate to implement again the restrictions that were imposed last March 28, and will be "happy" to do so in order to safeguard the public health of the community if the situation gets worse.

At the media briefing yesterday, Torres spoke about calculating risks and the possibility of changing policies, directives, and protocols, to keep up with the many moving factors concerning the pandemic, with the spike that has been happening, on and off-island.

"When I say happy to do it, I'm not saying that, okay, I'm happy to close it. No, I'm saying that I will not hesitate to shut the government, shut down the community, if that's what it takes…to safeguard the public health," said Torres. "We're seeing more numbers coming in, inbound travelers and getting positive cases. Then we have had our Case 50, and even looking around our region, we are seeing a spike up in South Korea. That's something that we should all look at."

In Guam, there have been a total of 577 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with five deaths, 353 released from isolation, and 219 active cases. Of those cases, 503 are classified as civilians and 74 are military service members.

Torres acknowledges that decisions to shut down the government and community will have to be based on the recommendations of CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, the Department of Homeland Security, and the task force. ***(With Iva Maurin)***

CWS

From Page 1

bor, and that $108,522.46 have so far been collected by its Benefits Payment Control Unit.

The islands' foreign workers were deemed ineligible for the federal assistance by the U.S. Department of Labor a week ago, with CNMI Labor stating that those who have misidentified themselves in order to qualify will be on the fraud list and will be directed to return the amount they have received.

Speaking at the media briefing yesterday, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said that only 15 of the confirmed CW-1s who have received PUA benefits have yet to return the money that they have received.

"We have confirmed that 75 applicants were deemed CW-1 and therefore ineligible for PUA benefits, and out of the 75 of these applicants, 60 have already returned the funds back to CNMI DOL, Finance, so our return rate is going well," she said.

For contract workers who have already spent a portion of the payment, Labor has a payment program in place with their Benefits Payments Control Unit.

"If a CW has spent part of that money, which they have come to realize this should not have been issued to them, they have an opportunity to repay the funds back on a payment plan process," Benavente added.

As for fraud, the Labor secretary stressed that anyone who misrepresented a statement or purposely said something on the application that they know is incorrect or untrue is considered to be committing an act of fraud.

"If you have inadvertently received a PUA benefit and you have reported it to the CNMI Department of Labor, of course your name will be taken off the fraud checklist and it will be cleared of any improper action by the BPC Unit," she said.

Claimants may call 322-9943/9944 or email bpc.cnmidol@gmail.com to report fraud/overpayment. The BPC Unit will compile the information and has proven that the claimant has been overpaid, a scheduled appointment will be made with the claimant to arrange a repayment plan.

More than $50 million in PUA and FPUC payments have already been disbursed to eligible and approved claimants as of Aug. 18, 2020, according to an Office of the Governor statement yesterday. Based on CNMI DOL data, all of the claims that were processed for payouts were those that were complete and without issues.

Last week, Labor issued about $19 million to about 3,000 applicants, the same amount the department is expecting to issue in the next two weeks, with paper applications being quicker to process according to Benavente.

"The team has been working very hard to process, and have processed over 7,000 initial PUA applications and weekly applications online and paper. We started hitting 1,500 paper applications and we should be done with those applications by this week."

According to the statement, claims that were submitted with supporting documentation (e.g., copy of ID, separation notices, reduction of hours) and without missing information were processed immediately if they demonstrated accurate eligibility (unemployment as a result of COVID-19 related reasons) and financial information (bank account and routing number).

For more information regarding the status of a PUA application, call telephone numbers: 989-9081/9083/9089/9090/9093. Inquiries can also be emailed to: info@puamarianas.com.

OPD

From Page 3

the owner asked him for his driver's license, he said the company should have his record because he had previously rented vehicles from the company. As the owner was checking if there was such a record (there was none), Basa left the area with a 2005 Toyota Matrix.

The owner and his brother then followed Basa on their own vehicle to Kagman 3, where Basa stopped the vehicle in the middle of the road. The owner approached Basa, who was still inside the car, and asked for his driver's license. Basa told the owner that he will borrow someone else's driver's license. The owner refused and told Basa he will refund his money and to return the car.

Basa got mad, got out of the car, and tried to hit the owner's head with his fist but the owner blocked it with his arm. Basa also approached the owner's brother and also tried to punch him in the head but the attack was also blocked.

Basa got into the Matrix car and drove toward the owner, who jumped out of the way. The brothers then ran to a nearby house for safety. Basa then kept ramming the vehicle that was parked outside the house.

Police learned that the vehicle was owned by Richard Basa. The report did not mention if the two Basas are related. Defendant Basa then left the scene. At 7:42pm that same day, police arrested him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DPS responds to a distressed vessel off Saipan waters

On Friday, Aug. 14, 2020, at about 6pm, the Emergency Operations Center relayed information to the CNMI Department of Public Safety regarding a distress call that was made earlier with no name, location, or nature of the distress call, besides saying that they were on the western side of Saipan. The DPS rescue boat, *Impact*, was launched to conduct search and rescue.

At about 6:09pm., the DPS rescue boat departed Smiling Cove Marina and headed toward the western waters of Saipan. At about 6:40pm, officers noticed a flare sighting and immediately drove toward the area. Shortly after, officers approached a 13-foot vessel and noticed two individuals on-board. The individuals stated that they were okay and just lost all power on the vessel.

The vessel was towed toward Smiling Cove Marina, where they arrived safely back at port at approximately 7:32pm. Officers learned that the individuals were out fishing earlier that day and went towards Marpi, when they decided to turn around and head south toward the island of Tinian. As they were heading south they began to experience engine problems and called for help thorough Channel 16 via their VHF marine radio. During their transmission, they lost all battery power.

As the sun began to set, they shot two flares within a five-minute interval. Shortly after they shot their second flare, the DPS rescue boat arrived at their location. The vessel was inspected and was found to be in compliance with all safety equipment aboard. ***(PR)***

COVID-19 surveillance, testing rules set for motor vessel ships, mariners

Ships and mariners are now included among those who will be subjected to COVID-19 surveillance and testing to prevent community transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 from off-island travelers.

COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez stated at the media briefing Monday that this action is intended to prevent any potential slip at the ports, with a focus on seaports.

"Cargo ships are much more frequent now and we want to protect the ship crew, as well as our crew on the ground who are unloading and facilitating the commodities that are being imported into CNMI," he said. "We provided a much more detailed process [as] we don't want to hamper operations at the port."

Based on a memo to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, merchant marines who are traveling to Saipan through the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be subjected to screening and quarantine procedures.

Ships with a sole mission to unload cargo and/or refuel and depart the CNMI will not be required to register and will not be tested, provided all its personnel remain at the dock, while ships whose mission includes any planned interaction with community members must adhere to current CNMI COVID-19 requirements such as registration, testing, and quarantine.

Ship personnel, including residents, are not allowed to use boats to transit from ship to shore as the action puts CNMI residents at extremely high risk of community transmission should the resident have the COVID-19 virus, Villagomez added.

"As we see, the prepositioning ships are also very active out there and we want to make sure that when they are out there, they continue to be sterile and if they do leave the CNMI water, that when they come back, we are aware and we go through the port-of-entry health declaration process before they set foot on land," he said.

Villagomez said that this is being done in collaboration with the Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Division of Customs, and is to be implemented on Rota as well. "Vessels or ships leaving Guam going to Rota should follow the stringent border entry protocol for health screening."

The CPA police and the Department of Public Safety will also be present to promote accountability by mariner and their employers, and to ensure that the mariners adhere to the requirements. ***(Iva Maurin)***

Atalig apologizes for staff redacting original documents

Finance Secretary David Atalig apologized Monday to the House Special Committee for Fiscal Review of Executive Expenditures, which is looking into and reviewing the purchases, travel, and reimbursements of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The apology came after a line of questioning by Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) regarding the Department of Finance staff redacting full credit card information on the documents needed from them under the Open Government Act, despite the minority bloc's request for the last four digits of the credit cards to not be redacted.

"I apologize. My staff were the ones that did it, and they thought that was the information they needed to redact," Atalig said.

The Finance secretary also stated that he was not aware that the redactions were made on the original documents, and only found out about it after having received the summon from the special committee.

"I was surprised and said we need to make a statement and explain what happened," he added.

Last week, Finance's director of Administrative Services Margaret Bertha Torres appeared before lawmakers, where she stated that the governor's legal counsel, Gilbert J. Birnbrich, advised them to redact personal information from the documents.

These included personal identifiers such as bank account and social security numbers. The Finance director, however, made it clear that Birnbrich did not ask them to redact the full credit card numbers, nor to redact the information from the original documents.

During the special committee meeting on Monday, Atalig stated that he got concerned the moment he found out that redactions, including of the full credit card numbers, were made on the original documents. Five Finance staff worked on the documents.

"I was surprised [as] I assumed that [they were going] make copies and redact the copies. …I was concerned. The last four digits are not considered confidential, just like the last four digits of the social security number are not confidential," he said.

Atalig further stated that he explained that to his staff, who were then "apologetic" for not being aware that they were not supposed to redact the entire line of credit card numbers.

Atalig, in an earlier interview, stated that he will provide the lawmakers the unredacted documents. He explained before the special committee Monday that, at that time, he was not aware that the information had been redacted from the original documents. ***(Iva Maurin)***

Arrington: Just a bad case of cellulitis

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Red, splotchy, bigger than an average foot. This is how YouTube channel *Deer Meat for Dinner* host Robert Arrington described his foot. What happened to him set tongues wagging, with some believing in the animist belief that Arrington might have accidentally stepped on something. Turns out, it was really just a bad case of cellulitis.

According to Arrington, he's had infections like this before while fishing in Florida and the Bahamas, and although he respects local superstition/beliefs, he believes that this is just like an infection. He added that part of his foot isn't healed, but it's healing.

"Everybody has their own…supernatural belief and whatnot. I personally just live my life and it is what it is. I've gotten infections before while fishing in Florida and the Bahamas and it's one of those things. I would never disrespect anyone's belief, [but] based on how it happened, I have no idea,' said Arrington. He said he had his infection treated by Dr. Norma S. Ada at the Medical Associates of the Pacific clinic in Puerto Rico.

According to the Mayo Clinic website, cellulitis is a common, potentially serious bacterial skin infection.

As of last Aug. 17, Arrington has made 29 YouTube videos within a month and a half that he's been touring the CNMI and the Northern Islands. When asked about what island was his favorite, Arrington said that he loves all islands but Rota will always remain the "most special island in the CNMI," simply because that's where he visited first.

"I've had the opportunity to hunt deer there, both with my bow and arrow and with my gun, I consider Pete Hocog and Kevin Ogo like family. I love those guys, and so many of the people on Rota are so friendly to me," said Arrington.

He says he doesn't want to take anything away from Saipan, Tinian, or the Northern Islands, but he has spent more time exploring Rota.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 13th birthday, Mametto! You are now officially a teenager. May God continue to bless you today and always. Lots of love on your special day. Greetings come from your family.

OLIVER M. MANGLONA, ESQ. (F0489)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 285-3750 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

	) CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0552
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	) NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR; and
JUAN SANTOS DELA CRUZ,	) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Deceased.	) Judge: Joseph N. Camacho Date: September 3, 2020 Time: 10:00 a.m. Courtroom: Supreme Court courtroom

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JUAN SANTOS DELA CRUZ:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Juan Santos Dela Cruz, Decedent**. The attorney for Petitioner is **Oliver Manalang Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950**.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by **Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **September 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** at **Supreme Court courtroom**. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **Oliver M. Manglona, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated**.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2020.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement

EXTENDED DEADLINE

PROGRAM OFFICER

Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic team player for the position of Program Officer. The Program Officer works creatively to develop and implement a variety of humanities programs and events and manages the Council's Community Grants program. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties and responsibilities may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

Applicants for this position are expected to demonstrate: (1) cultural competencies and inclusiveness in communications and program implementation; (2) ability to prioritize and undertake multiple, diverse activities and programs; (3) flexibility and willingness to respond to stakeholders and special assignments to meet project goals and organizational needs; (4) strong analytic skills for identifying issues and solutions; (5) ability to lead a team and work in a collaborative environment; (6) exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail; and (7) strong writing and communication skills.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, preferably in the humanities; and relevant experience in program and event planning, assessment and evaluation, and grants management. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual and include vacation leave, sick leave, personal days, health insurance and IRA contributions.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1) a Letter of Interest; (2) a detailed resume; (3) a recent writing sample (500-800 words; preferably on a humanities topic); (4) three Letters of Recommendations; and (5) names and addresses of three references to Leo Pangelinan, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, PO Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2020. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Two join NMC Board Regents

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Michelle Sablan and Irene Torres were recently confirmed and were sworn in Monday as the newest members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

The Senate confirmed Torres and Sablan's nominations to the NMC Board of Regents last week and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres administered their oath of office on Monday.

According to the Office of the Governor's Facebook page, both Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios "place their full trust in them to provide NMC with the proper guidance and direction to continue raising the bar and improving the quality of higher education in the Marianas."

NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said that Sablan would bring years of experience to NMC and a passion to develop young leaders.

"Sablan, a local entrepreneur who has owned and operated local businesses, brings years of private sector experience and a passion for developing young leaders. Her insight and experience are important as NMC continues its growth and its workforce development efforts," he said.

Eliptico added that Sablan is actively involved and contributes to the NMI Girl Scouts, Stellar Marianas, and other organizations.

Torres, on the other hand, has been an NMC board member since 2016 and this would be her second reappointment as an NMC regent.

"Torres has years of experience and is a great advocate [for] higher education and expanding student programs and services. She has also worked as a staff member of NMC in the past, so she has in-depth knowledge of the college's operations and students' needs for their educational growth," Eliptico said.

He added Torres has volunteered for the Marianas March Against Cancer, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, and other organizations.

Both Sablan and Torres are NMC alumnae, according to Eliptico, and he is confident that both will bring first-hand student experience to the decision-making role of the board.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres administers the oath of office for Michelle Sablan and Irene Torres at the Office of the Governor on Monday.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

"The NMC Board of Regents plays a critical role as it sets the policies that guide all employees and students and also leads the strategic direction of the institution," he said.

The other NMC regents are board chair Charles Cepeda, Elaine Orilla, Michaela Sanchez, Zenie Mafnas, and Jesse Tudela.

Rotary Club plants 40 flame trees

Rotary Club of Saipan members, in collaboration with other groups, pose for a picture after planting 40 flame trees last Saturday morning at the Tun Herman Pan Road on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Rotary Club of Saipan planted 40 flame trees last Saturday morning at the Tun Herman Pan Road on Saipan.

Called "Save the Flame Tree Project," the event was done in collaboration with CNMI Forestry, the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and the Miss Earth Northern Marianas Organization as special guest.

"This project is the first of a three-phased plan to preserve one of the island's most eye-catching trees that have been around for decades predominantly standing out along our main highway," said Rotary Club of Saipan president Sonya Dancoe.

Phase 3 of the project will involve planting several donated flame trees in Suicide Cliff.

Flame trees throughout the CNMI bloom from April to August each year. "Usually around April, flame trees begin to bloom and the CNMI hosts the annual Flame Tree Festival in honor of the vibrant tree that has become symbolic of our islands. Sadly, many of them were silent victims of super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu," said Dancoe. "It is our responsibility as members of the community to preserve this natural resource for future generations."

The Rotaract Club of Saipan, which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Saipan, joined planting trees as well, with directors Jaiden Santos and Lynnaray Sablan joined by Rotaract member Rayna Sablan at the event.

For more information on the Rotary Club of Saipan, contact 287-7368. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting** via telephone conference on **Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting

II. Update on CHCC Account and CUC's Response to CHCC Payment

III. Update on CUC Financial Standing

IV. Request for Approval to Authorize Request for Statement of Qualifications for Project Management Services

V. Public Comments*

VI. Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 8am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/15/2020)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  • Dr. Abner Pasatiempo (Telephonic Interview Re his Application)
  • Letter from CHCC CEO Esther L. Muna
  • Update on Pending Case (Legal Counsel)
VII. Director's Report
  • Update on Propose Regulations
  • FSMB Virtual Meeting – Impact of COVID-19 on Physician Well-Being and Patient Safety – August 27 from 6pm-7:30pm (CDT) Saipan Time - August 28 from 8am-9:30am)
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
  • Status for testing ability for LMFT
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COTA closed for professional dev't on Aug. 18-19

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, inclusive of its Demand Responsive-Shared Ride Service: Call-A-Ride Saipan, will be closed on Aug. 18-19, 2020, for professional development. COTA will resume regular operations on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020. ***(PR)***

Emergency water service interruptions

There was an emergency water service interruption yesterday from 3pm to 7pm for the Papago, San Vicente, Dandan Homestead and Obyan areas due to a leak on the 2-inch galvanized iron pipe located on Isa Drive in Papago on the southbound lane near the truck turn-out lane. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water operators were expected to complete repair work by 7pm last night. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://wvvw.facebook.com/CommonvvealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(PR)***

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN

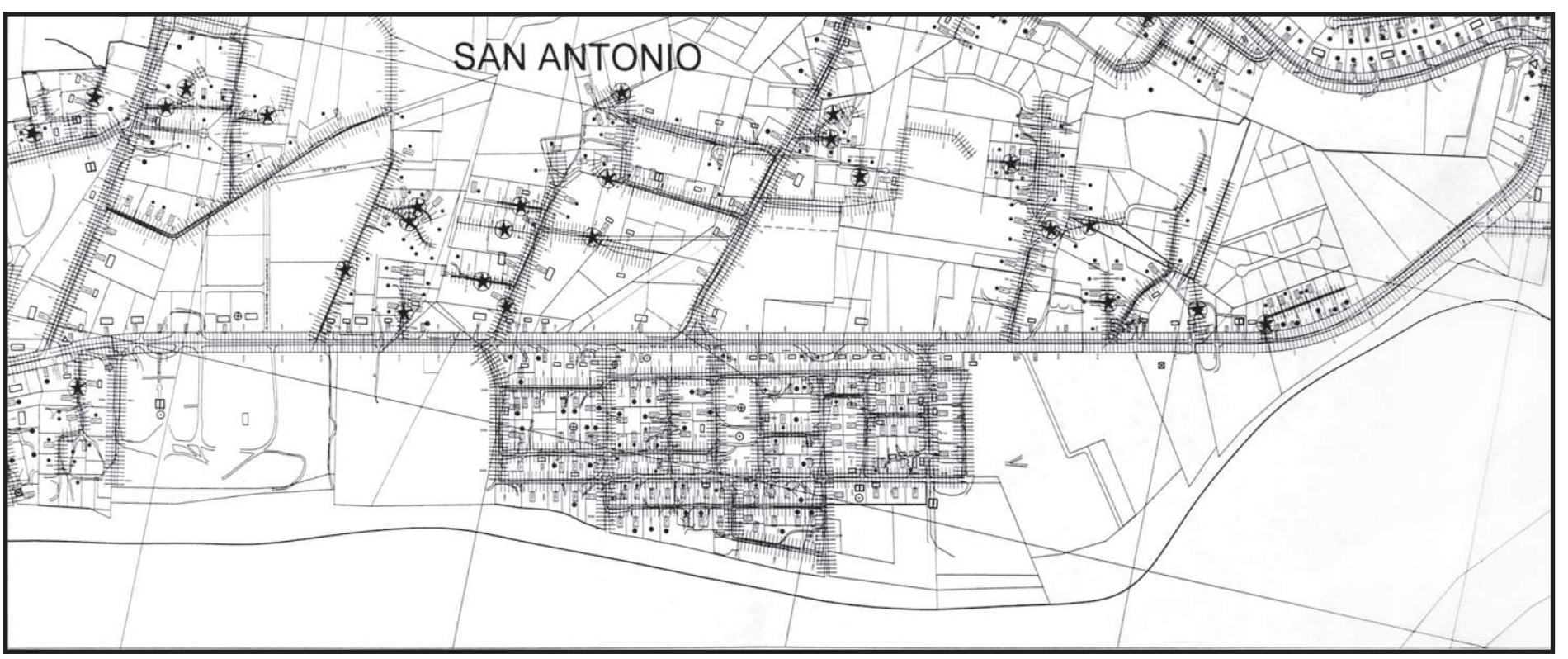
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan continues to work its way to the next project area in San Antonio Village after the initial project area in the Koblerville homestead subdivision, former MIHA turnkey subdivision, and Tottotville subdivision. The map of the next project area in San Antonio Village is shown below.

Mayor David M. Apatang respectfully requests the support and understanding of the homeowners and owners of buildings in the project area to welcome his office's street addressing staff and his office's consultant staff who will be visiting their homes and buildings beginning August 19, 2020.

The next project area will be announced in advance before the second project area (as shown on the map below) is completed.

Mayor Apatang appreciates your support and understanding as his office endeavors to carry out the addressing project so that every home and commercial and non-commercial building will be numbered.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Amazon comes full circle

Amazon Inc. has no parallel in American history. Its grip on the economy and its reach into our personal lives is unprecedented.

The biggest retailer in the United States, and the third-most-valuable company in the world, may now be coming to a vacant mall near you, filling the spots of the businesses it helped eviscerate.

The e-commerce giant is reportedly in talks with Simon Property Group, the nation's largest mall owner, to take over old J.C. Penney and Sears stores, two anchor establishments that have filed for bankruptcy. The irony of Amazon seeking to convert former retail chains into its own fulfillment centers can be lost on no one.

Amazon wants space closer to where its customers live to get goods into their hands faster, and malls need tenants to replace bankrupt stores. On the face of it, all parties will benefit from such an agreement; however, the rise of Amazon has left a trail of devastation behind that cannot easily be measured.

Amazon's strategy of relentlessly low pricing brought it more customers and helped snuff out competitors, but this resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of retail jobs across America, along with the devastation of communities that these small businesses supported.

In our pre-coronavirus world, the virtue of commerce was that it brought people together. Amazon's e-commerce model severed these exchanges from human interaction and place. What do we lose with Amazon's one-click shopping model? Casual encounters with friends and strangers, and the trust that develops from looking people in the eyes during these interactions.

Amazon now has its own brands that compete in a marketplace that it created, and it produces everything from suits to multivitamins. Amazon studios produce television shows, movies and comics. Amazon has a publishing house, a home grocery delivery service and surveillance technology—benignly called Alexa—that has been embraced by tens of millions of Americans, making the company's reach into our personal lives especially disturbing.

By branching out into all these fields, the company has been able to grow and crush smaller rivals, including startups, which are the primary source of job creation in America. The number of startups launched every year has fallen by nearly half since the 1970s, and the trend of corporate consolidation, personified by Amazon, coincides with stagnant wages and income inequality.

Yes, vacant land not generating taxes for municipalities is an objectively bad thing, and the jobs that will come with the opening of fulfillment centers should be celebrated; however, what's going to happen to these jobs (40% of Amazon's warehouse workers are temporary) as AI develops and the company creates robots, driverless cars and unmanned drones to deliver its packages?

Although these fulfillment centers will not attract the foot traffic that malls once did, they'll help pay the bills, and in today's economy, that is no small thing. However, these spaces were once vibrant centers of commerce filled with music and people, and now they will be warehouses where boxes are packed—and that is a lamentable thought.

(c) 2020 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Less sex, more insecurity—a pandemic baby bust is coming

By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN
Los Angeles Times

Virginia Heffernan is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

"Recreational sex is a popular form of leisure that has been redefined by the COVID-19 pandemic." So begins a doleful April 23 study in the journal Leisure Sciences.

Just to clear up any confusion: "Redefinition" here means "decline." Of the 1,559 adults who were asked about their pandemic-era sex lives, nearly half said the once "popular form of leisure" had lost its luster for them.

This is, admittedly, just one data point. Still, any diminishment of libidos is a harbinger of something perilous. It speaks to the decline of the nation: in numbers, yes, but also physically, economically and even morally.

The study was conducted in April, but if you think the loosening of the coronavirus shutdown has rekindled desire, woe betide. Last week, experts advised the libidinous to wear masks, avoid kissing and refrain from facing one another during sex. The Mayo Clinic is emphatic that the safest sex these days is masturbation, adding helpfully: "You might also consider engaging in sexual activity with partners via text, photos or videos, ideally using an encrypted platform to provide privacy protection."

Right. What a year. Nothing says romance like surgical masks, no eye contact and encrypted digital platforms.

And that's not the only reason for pandemic abstinence. The Brookings Institution predicts a baby bust in 2021, with 300,000 to 500,000 fewer births in the United States than in a usual year. Brookings puts this development down to economic hardship and existential insecurity. What can seem like a couple's idiosyncratic moods and choices, then, may be a direct result of President Donald Trump's ruinous response to the virus, and the many ways his government has refused to help the sick and suffering.

From stiffing overwhelmed states to ignoring the unemployed, who can no longer afford rent or groceries, the Trump administration seems actively intent on making Americans sicker and crushing our hope for recovery. None of this cruelty is an aphrodisiac.

If we can predict fewer than usual newborns in the U.S. in 2021, we can know for certain we will be missing a lot of already-borns by then. As I write this, more than 166,000 people have died of COVID-19, a figure the University of Washington estimates could be as high as 300,000 by Dec. 1. In New York in April, the death rate was six times higher than normal. It's anybody's guess how many will die before this thing "ends," a concept many now consider meaningless.

Older adults are in particular trouble. As of this week, according to Kaiser Health News data, some 40% of the nation's COVID-19 deaths have been linked to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

The U.S. isn't alone in its heart-sinking tally among the elderly. Public health officials in Europe, according to the New York Times, ignored warnings about the vulnerability of senior communities and went so far as to omit care-home residents from the mathematical models used to craft a response to COVID-19.

This dispiriting decline in births and rise in deaths will add to a centurylong slowing of the population growth rate in the U.S. That is, our numbers still increase year over year, but not our rate of growth, a slowdown furthered in the last four years by Trump's draconian and white-nationalist immigration policies. In 2019, before most of us had even heard the word "coronavirus," the Census Bureau announced that the nation's annual growth rate was at its lowest since the influenza pandemic of 1918. Slower even than during the Great Depression.

At least Americans won't reduce the population further by leaving these shores anytime soon, as much as we might want to escape. COVID-19 is so rampant here that most other nations won't allow Americans to cross their borders for a visit, let alone to immigrate.

In an investigation of deaths, births and migration in the Atlantic last month, Joe Pinsker concluded that, in 2020 at least, the U.S. population won't shrink. But if Trump is reelected, and if chaotic American public health policy (and politics) continue to aggravate the pandemic, 2021 could be the first year America's numbers hit that backward benchmark, a reckoning demographers weren't expecting until decades into the future.

When people take a chance on physical intimacy, they express faith in the future. When we raise children, take care of our elders and welcome strangers, we live out our nation's baseline moral commitments. The signs that America, under Trump, cannot care for itself—and maybe just doesn't care for itself—are too obvious to ignore.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Harris is far from perfect

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

Kamala Harris is a forceful personality, alert, awake, smart and ready to push you off the cliff if you get in her way. She does not believe in justice. She is an opportunist par excellence. Her compassion knows no beginning. All in all, she was a fascinating choice as Joe Biden's vice presidential running mate and could well become president herself someday, helping to lead this country further into progressive pulverization.

The left talks about her as, oh, wow, the new, improved America, and you wonder if they have ever looked back at what she did as San Francisco's district attorney and California's attorney general. For one thing, she mauled the wrongfully convicted.

One instance was in 2010 when she was DA and her deputies did nothing to alert defense attorneys that a lab technician in drug cases had passed on erroneous information defaming defendants. A judge said their constitutional rights had been violated, but Harris said the judge had a conflict of interest because her husband was a defense attorney. Harris wanted the 600 victims to remain victimized, but the judge heeded law and refused.

In a similar case, a man was found guilty of possessing a deadly weapon because his lawyer, later disbarred, failed to call any witnesses. Evidence showed some 15 years later he was innocent. Harris could have had him immediately released from prison but she came out on the side of judicial entanglement and he did not walk the streets again for another two years. He should then have received state reimbursement for his time behind bars, but, abetting cruelty, Harris said no.

There was also a case in which a man was accused by his stepdaughter of rape and then convicted because a prosecutor withheld contrary information. Harris's role was to keep his 70-year sentence intact.

Maybe you want to say all of this is political malarkey but it has been reported by reputable media outlets, including The New York Times. The sublimely liberal Atlantic magazine jumped in, telling us how she refused to investigate police corruption. She has since changed, comparing ICE agents to the Ku Klux Klan.

With mishmash substituting for evidence at Senate hearings, Harris believed the tall tales about Supreme Court nominee Bret Kavanaugh's sexual misdeeds and made an inquisitory star of herself. She then applied the same standards to suspect Biden accusers. "I believe them, and I respect them being able to tell their story and having the courage to do it," she said. She went after Biden another time during a debate, saying he wasn't a racist but insinuating that he was partly because he was against busing when she was a little girl getting bused to a good school. The next day, her staff had a T-shirt on the issue. Biden pointed out that he was only against federally mandated busing. She went back and forth on her position.

Given her exuberance about sexual-assault accusers, you might think Harris is for free speech. Sorry, but she would like to see Exxon prosecuted for stating its moderate views on climate change. And although she says she is open to the idea of felons in prison having the right to vote, she seriously questions whether someone should be appointed as a federal judge if he belonged to the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic charity group.

Of course, she has embraced extremes of all kinds, such as wanting the mostly poor, Black parents of vigorously truant students to be eligible for jail. She also sweated it out with tough competition to earn the most liberal voting record in the U.S. Senate in 2019, according to GovTrack.us.

Harris is not minus good deeds, but the list of bad ones is long, and understand that many woke, postmodern, cancel-culture news outlets right now are saying that criticism is sexist, racist slander. You should not pay attention to what I said unless you love our country.

Politicizing masks: The wrong way to lead

By KEVIN PHAM
The Heritage Foundation

Dr. Kevin Pham, M.D., is a visiting policy analyst at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).

"Every single American should be wearing a mask when they're outside for the next three months at a minimum," said former Vice President Joe Biden at a recent press briefing.

"Outside" encompasses a lot, including places where a mask would have exactly zero effect. Normally, this kind of rhetoric is a merely simplified admonition to wear masks generally, but in this press briefing, Biden also endorsed a nationwide mask-wearing mandate, adding this gloomy justification: "The estimates by the experts are it will save over 40,000 lives in the next three months."

More on that estimate in a moment. But first: Would such a mandate even be a good idea?

In short, no. The primary purpose of the broad masking guidelines is to reduce the transmission of the virus among asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic persons who do not know they are infected but are already contagious. We ask everybody to wear a mask where close contact with others is unavoidable because there is virtually no way to tell if a person needs it. Having everyone wear a mask is the only way to cover every potential spreader.

But we do not ask everyone to wear a mask all the time. A person who is contagious, even symptomatically so, would pose zero risk to anyone else when standing alone in an empty field, or more realistically, in the parking lot between a car and the grocery store, or simply on the sidewalk.

The recommendation to wear a mask comes from clinical experience and common sense. Surgeons wear masks during procedures not to protect the surgeon but to prevent the surgeon's respirations from contaminating the field. For the same reason, patients with COVID-19 or similar diseases are masked when being transported through a hospital.

So what does the science say? There is tremendous research that show that mask usage is associated with fewer infections, and this makes sense because respiratory illnesses are transmitted on our respirations. Therefore, if we put a physical barrier in front of our respiratory orifices, it will decrease the speed and spread of our potentially infectious respiratory droplets or aerosols.

But every single study shows that masks are not a panacea. They are a lightweight solution that comes at very little cost to the individual and serve as adjuncts to other safety precautions, such as handwashing, distancing, and minimizing unnecessary close contacts.

Regarding that claim about saving 40,000 lives, Biden presumably is referring to this statistical analysis that models the effects of various mitigation policies. It estimates that between 17 to 55,000 lives would have been saved if employees nationwide were required to wear masks between April and May.

The problem with Biden's claim then should be obvious. Requiring employees to be masked is not the same as requiring all Americans to be masked, and the situation in April and May is significantly different from the situation now. For one thing, masks are much more accepted now than they were before. And secondly, the infection has already spread through all or nearly all major cities in America—which means population immunity, although not yet at herd immunity levels, is going to be much greater than it was in April.

Thus, universal masking now will not have the same impact as it may have had earlier.

Now, masking is still helpful—and again, a prudent step to take when needed. But it is impossible to say that without a national mask mandate, and its requisite enforcement, 40,000 Americans would be lost. Stating so amounts to reprehensible fear-mongering.

That's one reason politicians shouldn't be trying to politicize mask wearing with mandates—and calling for heavy-handed solutions they know are impossible, backed by outlandish claims they know are misleading. It compromises public trust and diverts us from doing the right thing.

Americans, by and large, are generous, caring people. We need to trust them to care for themselves and their loved ones by wearing masks when social distancing is not possible. As President Donald Trump has said, it's the patriotic thing to do.

The immortal *Indianapolis*

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

This summer marks the 75th anniversary of the worst disaster in the history of the United States Navy—the sinking of the USS *Indianapolis*.

Three hundred men died in the initial catastrophe on July 30, 1945, then the survivors cast into the sea suffered unimaginable horrors, abandoned for days without food or water in shark-infested waters.

As long as tales of the sea move human hearts, the story of the *Indianapolis* will shock and inspire.

She was a heavy cruiser, in between a larger battleship and smaller destroyer. Sleek, fast and elegant, she bristled with firepower—her 8-inch guns could fire a 250-pound shell 18 miles. Franklin Roosevelt made her his ship of state, and she became the flagship of the Navy's 5th Fleet.

During World War II, she saw significant action and suffered a debilitating kamikaze strike at Okinawa. Quickly repaired, she embarked on a secret mission to deliver components of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima. She then proceeded unaccompanied to Leyte in the Philippines.

A Japanese submarine stumbled upon her on a dark night. It fired six torpedoes, two of which struck the ship in quick succession right after midnight. The ship sank in 12 horrifying minutes.

Nine hundred men made it off, suddenly in the middle of the Philippine Sea at night with their home, their weapon, their mistress gone. Only about half had a life jacket or life vest. They were spread over miles. Many were wounded.

At first, they were hopeful about a rescue that didn't come for four excruciating days. The ship's SOS call was picked up at three places, but the message was ignored. A failure in the Navy's tracking system meant no one noticed when the *Indianapolis* didn't show up at Leyte. Day by day, hundreds more men died.

During the day, the sun tortured them. The salt water weakened them. Thirst agonized them. Their life jackets began to give out.

They died of exposure and exhaustion. They died from the nightmarish attacks of circling sharks. They died from the terrible temptation of drinking salt water. They died from madness. They died from sheer despair, giving up and sinking beneath the waves.

Still, somehow, at the extreme edge of human endurance, 317 men survived when a plane on a surveillance mission finally came across them.

For Capt. Charles McVay, a new agony began. As the *Indianapolis* sank, he had considered going down with the ship before getting swept away by a wave. At first separated from his men, he had the horrifying thought that he alone might have survived.

The Navy court-martialed him for not having zigzagged to evade attack, even though his orders only made it mandatory during the day, even though the maneuver was of dubious effectiveness, even though the captain of the Japanese sub said he assuredly would have sunk the *Indianapolis* anyway.

There was a much stronger case that McVay had been let down by the Navy, since he wasn't apprised of reports of Japanese subs operating in his vicinity and the Navy, shockingly, lost track of his ship. Yet McVay was found guilty. A broken man, he took his own life in 1968, and the Navy didn't expunge his record of wrongdoing until 2001.

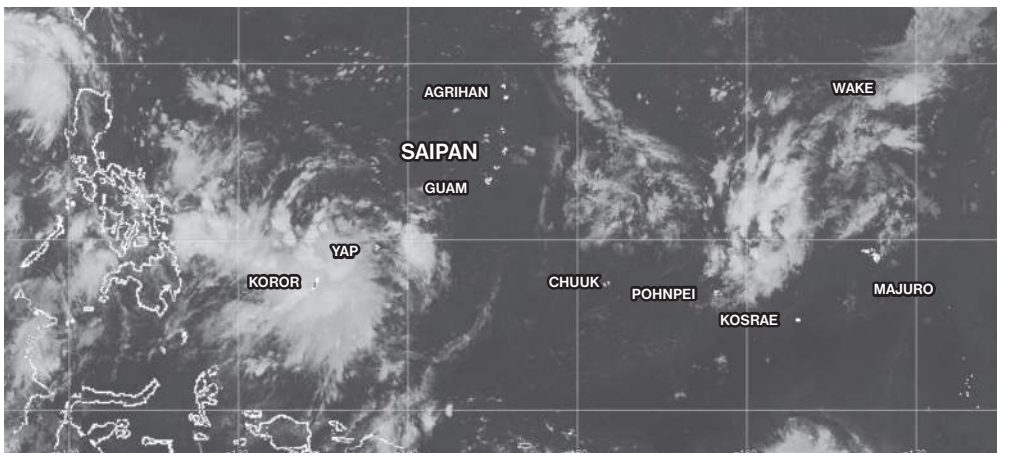
It's another tragedy associated with a ship whose drama, heartbreaking and astonishing, will never leave us.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
86° 76°	86° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:14 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

As the upper-level low that was influencing the Marianas moves farther west, thunderstorms, other than island convection, look less likely across the region through tonight. Therefore, isolated afternoon thunderstorms are in the forecast for Rota, Tinian and Saipan, with scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms for Guam today. Island convection remains a possibility for the next few days at least and with very light winds expected over all of the Marianas on Wednesday, scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms were added to the forecast for Rota, Tinian and Saipan for Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:51 AM	6:57 PM	-
Thursday	6:53 AM	7:45 PM	-
Friday	7:53 AM	8:31 PM	-
Saturday	8:52 AM	9:15 PM	-
Sunday	9:50 AM	10:00 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain 60° / 52°
Beijing	Cloudy 78° / 68°
Hong Kong	Showers 85° / 80°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny 85° / 75°
London	Rain 70° / 65°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy 93° / 72°
Manila	Thunderstorms 87° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers 54° / 47°
Miami	Thunderstorms 87° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy 80° / 66°
Osaka	Sunny 99° / 82°
Paris	Showers 76° / 65°
Busan	Sunny 89° / 77°
Rome	Mostly Sunny 93° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms 87° / 68°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy 78° / 60°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny 86° / 74°
Tokyo	Cloudy 93° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms 80° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
1:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.23
6:47 AM	LOW TIDE	2.12
1:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.21
8:47 PM	LOW TIDE	2.08

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business

Turn to many food choices at 360 Revolving Restaurant

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After new management took over in October last year, 360 Revolving Restaurant revamped its menu and now offers a wider array of dishes that guarantees full flavor and taste to its customers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

360 Revolving Restaurant managing partner Andrew L. Colburn with fiancée enjoying delicious dishes served carefully with the goal to satisfy.

A veteran in restaurant business, Andrew L. Colburn and his business partner, Steve Nutting, saw the opportunity to make 360 Revolving Restaurant better, both in food and service that is evident today.

"I have been here on Saipan for two years but got into business only in Oct. 1, 2019… owned a restaurant in Roatan, Honduras for 10 years and when I saw 360 which is a beautiful restaurant, I saw a good opportunity," Colburn said.

"When we took over, we only had two goals in mind—better food and service and that is our promise… we are embracing this concept that we take better care of customers. All restaurants say they do but most don't," Colburn added.

360 Revolving Restuarant customers enjoy the Saipan sunset, one of the views the people enjoy while dining in.

Perfectly situated at the penthouse of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, 360 Revolving Restaurant is an experience. Dining area is on a broad circular platform that goes around 360 degrees and guests are treated with delicious food with changing views or background.

For more information, call (670) 234-3600 or (670) 285-0360

"We have added a lot to the current menu and the bestseller dish is our Texas fajitas… We have a lunch special that goes for only $9.99 and on the weekend, we celebrate 'Spanish Saturday' where we serve Mexican food for lunch and dinner," Colburn said.

"Before the pandemic, our customer base were tourists or visitors and they hold 65% of our business…We recently opened and now we have 100% locals for customers and we are surprised how good business has been… [We're] not where we need to be, but better than I anticipated. We appreciate all the islanders' loyalty to 360 since we resumed operations," Colburn said.

According to Colburn, better service also entails their concern for customers and have placed health and safety protocols. "We follow regulations set by the government and the COVID-19 task force both for employees and customers like wearing of masks, washing hands, but most of all, the way 360 is set up in a circle, we are naturally social distancing so not much different from before and I find that we are lucky that way," he said.

360 Revolving Restaurant is open from Monday to Saturday, 11am-2pm for lunch, and 5pm-9pm or dinner. For more information, call (670) 234-3600 or (670) 285-0360, email andy_ac1@yahoo.com, or Facebook 360 Revolving Restaurant Saipan.

Trump administration imposes new Huawei restrictions

The Trump administration is further tightening restrictions on China's Huawei, seeking to starve it of crucial components by cutting off all access to U.S. technology.

"We don't want their equipment in the United States because they spy on us," Trump told Fox News on Monday. "And any country that uses it, we're not going to do anything in terms of sharing intelligence."

The Commerce Department's new rules, rolled out Monday, will further block Huawei from accessing chip technology.

Washington cut off Huawei's access to U.S. components and technology, including Google's music and other smartphone services, last year. Those penalties were tightened in May when the White House barred vendors worldwide from using U.S. technology to produce components for Huawei.

A Huawei executive said this month that the company has started running out of processor chips to make smartphones as a result of those sanctions, and may have to stop production of its own advanced chips.

But the Commerce Department said Monday that more restrictions were needed because Huawei has "continuously tried to evade" the earlier sanctions by using technology supplied by third parties. The new rule is designed to block Huawei's access to commercially available chips made with tools acquired from the U.S.

"The new rule makes it clear than any use of American software or American fabrication equipment to produce things through Huawei is banned, and requires a license," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told Fox Business on Monday. "It's really a question of closing loopholes to prevent a bad actor from access to U.S. technology, even if they try to do it in a very indirect, very tricky manner."

Canada's finance minister steps down amid pandemic

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's finance minister announced his resignation Monday amid reports of differences with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over government spending to protect the economy during the coronavrius pandemic.

Bill Morneau said he is leaving politics and has put his name forward as a candidate to lead the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Trudeau thanked Morneau for his five years as finance minister and said in a statement that "Canada will vigorously support his bid to lead" the OECD.

Morneau and Trudeau have reportedly butted heads amid spending to backstop the pandemic-hammered economy. Morneau said he was not asked to resign but added that he is no longer the appropriate the person for the job.

Canada's government is predicting a historic CDN$343 billion (US$260 billion) deficit for 2020-21 resulting from its economic and stimulus plans to battle the impact of COVID-19. Trudeau has called the spending a lifeline to Canadians battling to stay afloat.

Recent news that Mark Carney, a former governor of both the Bank of Canada and Bank of England, has been advising Trudeau during the pandemic fueled speculation that Morneau might be replaced.

Carney and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland would be considered favorites to replace Morneau but two senior government officials told The Associated Press that Carney is not a potential candidate to replace him. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter. One of the officials confirmed Carney has been informally speaking with the prime minister for some time.

Carney was the first non-Briton to take the top job at the 325-year-old Bank of England.

Opposition parties have been calling for Morneau's resignation over allegations that he had a conflict of interest in a controversy with WE Charity, a scandal that has also touched Trudeau.

Trudeau has said he should have recused himself from a Cabinet decision to award a contract to We Charity to administer money to students having trouble finding work due to the pandemic. The almost billion-dollar program came under scrutiny after it was revealed that We Charity, an organization Trudeau's family has worked for, was chosen to administer it. Trudeau's wife, brother and mother have been paid a combined $300,000 Canadian (US$221,000) for speaking at a number of WE events.

Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, said Morneau's resignation is not a surprise and noted he too had a conflict of interest with the charity.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
3,382.25	27,773.00	11,296.00
+2.50	-2.00	+9.25
+0.07%	-0.01%	+0.08%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.38	Hong Kong Dollar	7.75	Russian Ruble	72.49
British Pound	0.76	Indian Rupee	74.49	Singapore Dollar	1.37
Canadian Dollar	1.32	Japanese Yen	105.58	South Korean Won	1,162.78
Chinese Yuan	6.84	Malaysian Ringgit	4.15	Swiss Franc	0.91
Euro	0.84	New Zealand Dollar	1.53	Taiwan Dollar	28.94
		Philippine Peso	47.77	Thailand Baht	31.16

Nation

Amid outcry, postmaster general to testify before House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facing a public backlash over mail disruptions, the Trump administration scrambled to respond as the House prepared an emergency vote to halt delivery delays and service changes that Democrats warned could imperil the November election.

The Postal Service said it has stopped removing mailboxes and mail-sorting machines amid an outcry from lawmakers. President Donald Trump flatly denied he was asking for the mail to be delayed even as he leveled fresh criticism on universal ballots and mail-in voting.

"Wouldn't do that," Trump told reporters Monday at the White House. "I have encouragedeverybody: Speed up the mail, not slow the mail."

Embattled Postmaster General Louis DeJoy will testify next Monday before Congress, along with the chairman of the Postal Service board of governors.

Democrats and some Republicans say actions by the new postmaster general, a Trump ally and a major Republican donor, have endangered millions of Americans who rely on the post office to obtain prescription drugs and other needs, including an expected surge in mail-in voting this fall.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi is calling the House back into session over the crisis at the Postal Service, setting up a political showdown amid growing concerns that the Trump White House is trying to undermine the agency ahead of the election.

AP

In this Aug. 5, 2020, file photo Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, left, is escorted to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Pelosi cut short lawmakers' summer recess with a vote expected Saturday on legislation that would prohibit changes at the agency. The package will also include $25 billion to shore up the Postal Service, which faces continued financial losses.

The Postal Service is among the nation's oldest and more popular institutions, strained in recent years by declines first-class and business mail, but now hit with new challenges during the coronavirus pandemic. Trump routinely criticizes its business model, but the financial outlook is far more complex, and includes an unusual requirement to prefund retiree health benefits that advocates in Congress want to undo.

Ahead of the election, DeJoy, a former supply-chain CEO who took over the Postal Service in June, has sparked nationwide outcry over delays, new prices and cutbacks just as millions of Americans will be trying to vote by mail and polling places during the COVID-19 crisis.

Trump on Monday defended DeJoy, but also criticized postal operations and claimed that universal mail-in ballots would be "a disaster."

"I want to make the post office great again," Trump said on "Fox & Friends."

Later at the White House, Trump told reporters he wants "to have a post office that runs without losing billions and billions of dollars a year."

The decision to recall the House carries a political punch. Voting in the House will highlight the issue after the weeklong Democratic National Convention nominating Joe Biden as the party's presidential pick and pressure the Republican-held Senate to respond. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell sent senators home for a summer recess.

"In a time of a pandemic, the Postal Service is Election Central," Pelosi wrote Sunday in a letter to colleagues, who had been expected to be out of session until September. "Lives, livelihoods and the life of our American Democracy are under threat from the president."

At an event in his homestate Monday, McConnell distanced himself from Trump's complaints about mail operations. But the Republican leader also declined to recall senators to Washington, vowing the Postal Service "is going to be just fine."

"We're going to make sure that the ability to function going into the election is not adversely affected," McConnell said in Horse Cave, Ky. "And I don't share the president's concerns."

Two Democratic lawmakers called on the FBI to investigate actions by DeJoy and the board of governors to slow the mail. "It is not unreasonable to conclude that Postmaster General DeJoy and the Board of Governors may be executing Donald Trump's desire to affect mail-in balloting," Reps. Ted Lieu of California and Hakeem Jeffries of New York wrote in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray.

Trump says he'll send feds if NYC can't stop bloodshed

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump is again threatening to send federal agents to New York City if local authorities don't stop a surge of violence that has left seven people dead and more than 50 people shot since Friday.

Trump, who's running for re-election on a law-and-order agenda as a counterweight to the police and criminal justice reform movement, reacted to the news of the mayhem in his hometown Sunday night on Twitter.

"Law and Order," Trump wrote, directing his message at the city's Democratic mayor, Bill de Blasio. "If (he) can't do it, we will!"

It was the latest in a string of bloody weekends that have roiled the city in the wake of coronavirus-related shutdowns, rallies against police brutality and a month-long protest encampment in front of City Hall.

According to police, 51 people were shot from Friday through Sunday. Six of them were killed, including John Jeff, a 28-year-old city jail officer who was off-duty in Queens. Another man died after a physical altercation, police said.

Eight people were shot and five people were killed over the same span last year.

De Blasio on Monday dismissed Trump's tweet as "bluster," telling reporters that a recent uptick in gun arrests was a hopeful sign that the NYPD "will turn this tide."

De Blasio's press secretary, Bill Neidhardt, noted that Trump sent his tweet hours after retweeting a pundit who said Democratic cities should be left to rot.

Trump has used violent spikes in Democratic-led cities such as New York, Chicago and Philadelphia to justify claims that recent reforms and cuts to police budgets have handcuffed officers and allowed criminals to run amok. His re-election campaign has been airing farcical television commercials suggesting no one will be there to answer 911 calls if his Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, is elected president.

"The only thing rotten is Trump's mind," Neidhardt tweeted in response.

Trump, a Republican who grew up in Queens and built his namesake tower on Manhattan's chic Fifth Avenue, backed off a threat last month to send federal agents to New York City to deal with protesters and increased violence, as he had in Portland, Oregon.

De Blasio had said the city would take legal action to stop such a move and Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Trump told him by telephone that he wouldn't send any extra federal law enforcement personnel to the city without discussing it with the governor first.

AP survey: States uncommitted to Trump's unemployment boost

President Donald Trump's plan to offer a stripped-down boost in unemployment benefits to millions of Americans amid the coronavirus outbreak has found little traction among the states, which would have to pay a quarter of the cost to deliver the maximum benefit.

An Associated Press survey finds that as of Monday, 18 states have said they will take the federal grants allowing them to increase unemployment checks by $300 or $400 a week. The AP tally shows that 30 states have said they're still evaluating the offer or have not said whether they plan to accept the president's slimmed-down benefits. Two have said no.

The uncertainty is putting some families' finances in peril.

Tiana Chase, who runs a community game room and store in Maynard, Massachusetts, said the extra $600 she and her partner had been receiving under the previous federal benefit helped keep them afloat after the pandemic caused many businesses to shutter.

For the past few weeks, she's been getting less than $300 in unemployment. If that's boosted by another $300, "it's going to be a lot tighter, but at least I can vaguely manage," she said. "I can cover my home expenses."

Many governors say the costs to states to receive the bigger boost offered by Trump is more than their battered budgets can bear. They also say the federal government's guidelines on how it will work are too murky. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, called it a "convoluted, temporary, half-baked concept (that) has left many states, including Pennsylvania, with more questions."

New Mexico was the first state to apply for the aid last week and one of the first to be announced as a recipient by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. But Bill McCamley, secretary of the state's Department of Workforce Solutions, said it's not clear when the money will start going out, largely because the state needs to reprogram benefit distribution systems to make it work.

"People need help and they need it right now," McCamley said. "These dollars are so important, not only to the claimants, but because the claimants turn that money around, sometimes immediately to pay for things like rent, child care, utilities."

In March, Congress approved a series of emergency changes to the nation's unemployment insurance system, which is run by state governments.

People who were out of work got an extra federally funded $600 a week, largely because the abrupt recession made finding another job so difficult. The boost expired at the end of July, and recipients have now gone without it for up to three weeks. ***(AP)***

Asia

Manila virus lockdown being eased

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has decided to ease a mild lockdown in the capital and four outlying provinces to further reopen the country's battered economy despite having the most coronavirus infections in Southeast Asia.

Duterte would allow most businesses, including shopping malls and dine-in restaurants, and Roman Catholic church services to partially resume on Wednesday with restrictions, including masks and social distancing.

Duterte shifted metropolitan Manila and the nearby provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal, a region of about 25 million people, back to a mild lockdown two weeks ago after leading groups of doctors warned hospitals were being overwhelmed again by COVID-19 patients and pleaded for a "time out." They also asked the government to recalibrate its response to the pandemic.

The Philippines has reported more than 164,000 virus cases, including 2,681 deaths.

Duterte's administration has been under intense pressure to revive the economy, which fell into a recession in the second quarter as millions of people lost their jobs.

Duterte, 75, used his televised appearance to deny rumors that he has fallen ill and was flown out of the country over the weekend for treatment. "Stop this nonsense about me going to Singapore," he said.

AP

A health worker distributes medicines and vitamins to a resident at an area placed under stricter lockdown measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Caloocan city, Philippines on Friday, Aug. 14, 2020.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ South Korea reported 246 new cases as the virus continues to spread in the greater capital area where churches have emerged as major clusters. South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 959 cases have been reported in five days. A northern Seoul church led by a bitter critic of South Korean President Moon Jae-in has emerged as a major cluster of infections, with health workers detecting more than 300 infections linked to its members. The pastor, Jun Kwang-hun, was hospitalized after testing positive on Monday. KCDC director Jeong Eun-kyeong raised concern that the number of virus carriers could be higher because some church members and protesters were refusing to come forward for testing.

■ Australia's coronavirus hot spot Victoria state on Tuesday reported its lowest tally of new infections in a month. Victoria's Health Department reported 222 new cases, the lowest daily tally since 217 were recorded on July 18. The state also reported 17 deaths following a daily record of 25 fatalities on Monday. Infections have been trending down after a second lockdown came into force in the state capital Melbourne in early August that included a curfew and mandatory mask-wearing.

Lockdown deaths in India ignite debate on police brutality

NEW DELHI (AP) —For two and a half minutes the popular Indian radio DJ described in graphic detail what she said was the torture and killing of a father and son in police custody.

The father was arrested for flouting coronavirus lockdown rules by keeping his mobile phone shop in southern India open past curfew, Suchitra Ramadurai alleged in a video posted to her Instagram. The man's son went to check on him at the police station and both were beaten so badly they were still bleeding when they appeared before a judge the next day.

Three days later, on June 23, they were both dead.

"Please share this story," Ramadurai told her followers. "Let's fight the system."

The video, which was viewed 20 million times before police ordered Ramadurai to take it down, sparked an extraordinary groundswell of public outrage at the deaths with local opposition politicians marching in the streets, Bollywood stars voicing their condemnations and television stations holding hourslong debates on police brutality.

Even more rare, 10 police officers were arrested in a federal investigation and charged with murder.

The case came as global attention was focused on police abuse following the death of George Floyd in custody in the United States. It has renewed calls in India for reform of what human rights advocates have described as a culture of abuse and impunity within the country's police system.

The response to the deaths of the father and son, if not unprecedented, was far from the norm in India, where police "routinely use torture and flout arrest procedures with little or no accountability," said Jayshree Bajoria, the author of "Bound by Brotherhood," a 2016 report on custodial deaths in India.

"Often the entire system is complicit in shielding the police responsible for such abuses instead of ensuring accountability," said Bajoria.

According to the New Delhi-based National Campaign Against Torture, 125 people died in police custody due to torture or other abuses in 2019.

In internal reports police typically attribute such deaths to other causes such as suicide, preexisting illnesses or natural causes. However, in many cases documented by rights groups and government-appointed investigators, the deaths were determined to be the result of torture.

The country's National Human Rights Commission said in its 2017 annual report that violence in custody was so rampant "that it has become almost routine," adding that many custodial deaths were reported after a considerable delay or not reported at all.

India's Home Ministry, which is responsible for law and order, did not respond to requests for comment on the issue.

World

AFTER DEADLY PORT BLAST

Sharp rise in virus cases in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon is facing a surge in coronavirus cases after a devastating blast at the Beirut port earlier this month killed scores and wounded thousands, prompting medical officials on Monday to call for a two-week lockdown to try to contain the pandemic.

Virus numbers were expected to rise following the Aug. 4, explosion of nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate stored at the port. Around 180 people were killed, more than 6,000 wounded and a quarter of a million left with homes unfit to live in. The blast overwhelmed the city's hospitals and also badly damaged two that had a key role in handling virus cases.

Medical officials had warned of the dangers of crowding at hospitals in the aftermath of the explosion, at funerals, or as people searched through the rubble. Protests and demonstrations also broke out after the blast as Lebanese vented their anger at authorities.

On Monday, the Health Ministry registered 456 new cases and two deaths, a new daily record after Sunday's 439 virus cases and six fatalities. The new infections bring to 9,337 the total number of cases in the small country of just over 5 million. Lebanon has reported a total of 105 fatalities.

The virus causes mild to moderate symptoms in most people, who recover within a few weeks. But it is highly contagious and can cause severe illness or death, particularly in older patients or those with underlying health problems.

The U.N. force deployed in southern Lebanon along the border with Israel reported 22 of its peacekeepers have tested positive. UNIFIL said it has been tracing and testing personnel who had potentially been in direct contact with an individual who tested positive last week. It says none of the peacekeepers have experienced symptoms.

Separately, the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said four Palestinians died of the virus over the weekend—doubling to eight the number of fatalities in Palestinian refugee camps.

Strict measures imposed last spring had kept the number of cases under control in Lebanon, but they surged after a lockdown and nighttime curfew were lifted and the country's only international airport reopened in early July.

Health Minister Hamad Hassan warned the true number could be far higher. Following a meeting Monday with medical officials who demanded another two-week lockdown, he urged everyone to wear masks, saying the virus has now spread in every city and almost every village in Lebanon.

"It is a matter of life and death," Hassan said, adding that soon private and public hospitals might not be able to accept more patients.

Lebanon's health sector has been challenged by the pandemic that hit amid an unprecedented economic and financial crisis. The explosion in Beirut's port only increased the pressure on Beirut's hospitals, knocking out at least three of them.

Dr. Firas Abiad, director general of Rafik Hariri University Hospital, which is leading the fight against coronavirus, described the situation as "extremely worrisome," warning that without a lockdown, the numbers will continue to rise "overwhelming the hospital capacity."

Israelis eager to tighten ties to UAE after historic accord

JERUSALEM (AP)—For eager Israelis, anticipation is mounting that Dubai's glitzy Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, will soon join the ranks of the Pyramids in Egypt and the ancient ruins in Jordan's Petra as a once-forbidden destination now within reach.

Last week, the United Arab Emirates said it would establish full diplomatic ties with Israel, which would make it just the third Arab nation to do so. The dramatic announcement set off a flurry of excitement in Israel, bringing years of covert business and security ties into the open and adding an appealing tourist destination for travel-happy Israelis.

Israeli TV stations have already dispatched reporters to the oil-rich Persian Gulf nation and local media has been filled with footage of Dubai's shiny skyscrapers, massive malls, artificial islands and sandy beaches. Newspapers have been blaring headlines of a "new Middle East" and publishing tutorial articles about the Emirati economy, landscape and royal family.

The U.S.-brokered deal has been billed as a diplomatic breakthrough that formalizes the burgeoning alliance against Iran. The UAE says it halted Israel's contentious plans to annex up to a third of the West Bank, land sought by the Palestinians.

But for many Israelis, the allure lies mostly in fulfilling their long-time yearning for acceptance in the Middle East.

The prospect of mutual embassies, expanding tourism to the Gulf and solidifying business opportunities with another country that shares its penchant for technology and innovation has Israelis salivating.

"We used to have to 'launder the products' and go through all kinds of intermediaries to do business with Arabs," said Gadi Nir, cofounder and chief executive of Bobo, an Israeli company that makes physiotherapy and rehabilitative products and just signed one of the first deals with a UAE company. "It was always indirect and artificial. Now we can get personal. We don't have to hide under the carpet anymore."

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace estimates that quiet trade relations between Israel and the Gulf states already exceed $1 billion a year, with a good chunk in security and cyber-related deals between Israel and the UAE. The figure and the scope of business now looks primed to surge.

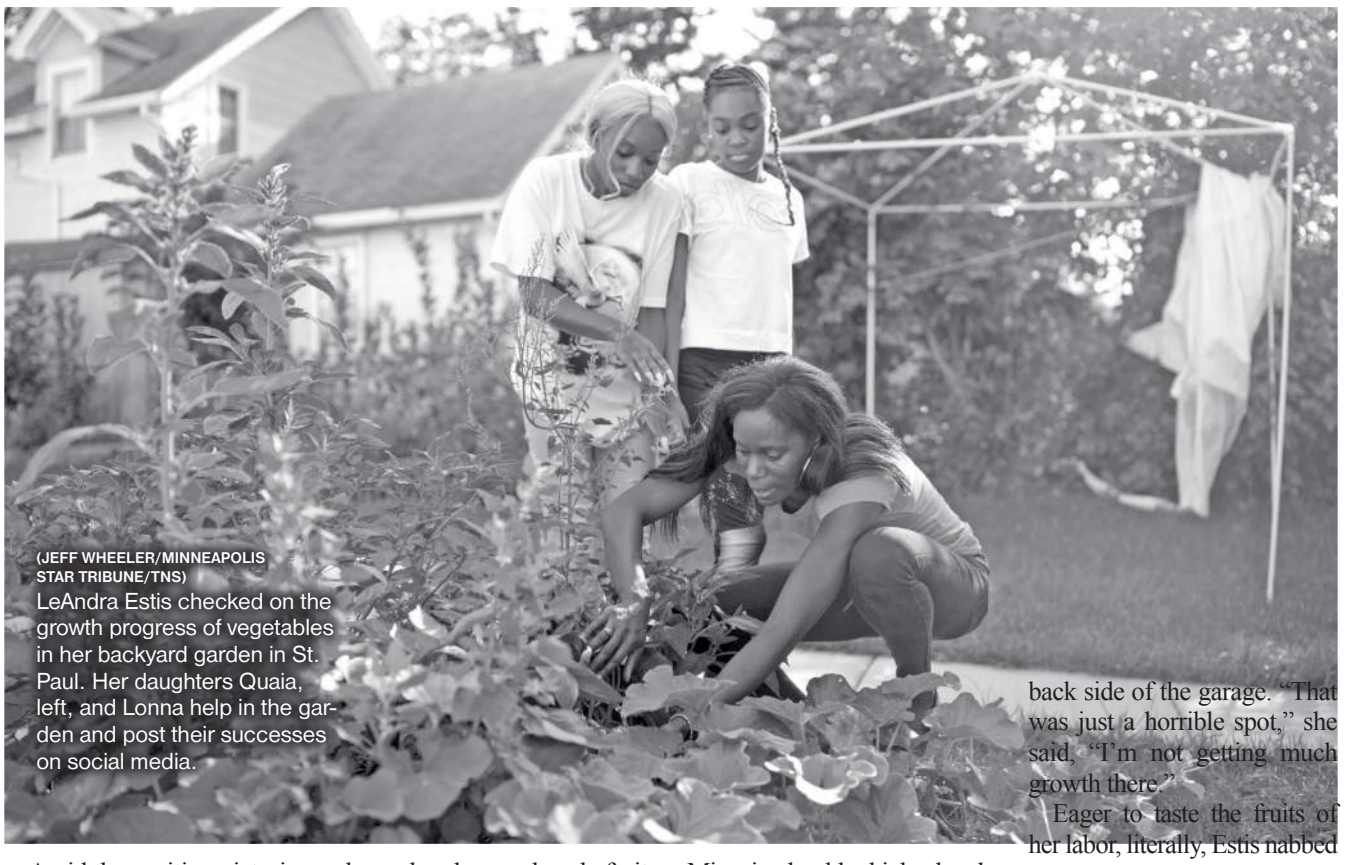
Following Thursday's announcement, the Israeli company TeraGroup signed an agreement with an Emirati company, APEX National Investment, to conduct coronavirus research. Communication will also be a lot easier now that the UAE has opened its phone lines to Israel and stopped blocking access to Israeli websites.

The accord between the countries is supposed to include direct flights, less than a three-hour journey, though that could require approval from Saudi Arabia to use its airspace. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday work was underway to establish the flight paths.

Environment

Urban gardeners share the ups and downs of growing food

By KERRI WESTENBERG
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)



(JEFF WHEELER/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS)
LeAndra Estis checked on the growth progress of vegetables in her backyard garden in St. Paul. Her daughters Quaia, left, and Lonna help in the garden and post their successes on social media.

MINNEAPOLIS—When a suspicious-looking sprout appeared in the St. Paul garden of LeAndra Estis, she plucked it. The willful plant popped up again. Instead of pulling it out a second time, the new gardener fired up Google. The would-be intruder was spinach.

"I kept thinking, 'That's not right,' " said Estis, who had never seen the leafy green emerge from the ground and was expecting the spinach she planted from seed to look more bushy, like the mustard and collard greens she watched grow as a child.

In Minneapolis, Christopher Lutter-Gardella faced a different problem. He had to sow peas several times because his plants were getting chewed down at the base from some unseen force.

"The littlest, humblest critter can bring your whole enterprise crashing down," he said.

Such challenges have not discouraged these two urban gardeners. Estis broke ground behind her home in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood, looking forward to teaching her two daughters—Quaia, 19, and Lonna, 13—the joys of growing your own food. Lutter-Gardella decided that with more time at home due to the coronavirus pandemic, this was the summer to expand his gardens, including the front yard of his home in Minneapolis' Powderhorn neighborhood.

Amid the exciting victories, both gardeners have accepted minor setbacks as an inevitable part of cultivating gardens that deliver food, beauty—and a few lessons along the way.

In this season of renewed interest in home gardening, we are following Estis and Lutter-Gardella throughout the growing season.

Great growth

"Everything is growing so fast—especially the weeds," Estis joked.

The spinach that originally confounded Estis was the first plant to spring up and came in strong. Another robust grower has already produced fruit: "The tomatoes are growing like mad," Estis said.

The same is true in Lutter-Gardella's gardens. He calls his tomatoes—about 15 plants of them—"out of control." He is racing to stake them. "Every year I am like, 'Wow, tomatoes are amazing.' They are so low-maintenance and so productive," he said. Lutter-Gardella's squash is also thriving. But it's the native corn that he planted for the first time this year that has impressed him most. "The corn is blowing my mind. It's booming. You know the saying, 'knee-high by the 4th of July'? Mine is shoulder-high already and gloriously beautiful," he said a few days after the 4th.

Disappointing duds

"I have struggled with the leeks. I planted a ton but only a dozen have survived," said Lutter-Gardella. In another unpleasant surprise, only about half of his first planting of carrots germinated, and his pepper plants aren't producing. He's not sure why.

Estis has a row of strawberry and tomato plants that seem stunted. When she had no more room in her two garden plots, she added a row on the back side of the garage. "That was just a horrible spot," she said, "I'm not getting much growth there."

Eager to taste the fruits of her labor, literally, Estis nabbed a green tomato from a vine to make fried green tomatoes. It turned out to be too firm and lacking juice. She also picked a cucumber too early. "It was bitter. I'm hoping that … if I keep it on the vine longer, it will taste better."

Lessons learned

"Make sure you lay out what you are planting and pay attention to how much space they need," said Estis, who is in a quandary about three cantaloupe plants she now knows are far too close together. "I am trying to decide if I should pull the one in the middle and replant it in another spot."

She also recommends enriching the soil. In her garden plots, she laid down Miracle-Gro garden soil and nitrogen-rich coffee grounds, a trick she learned from her mother, longtime gardener Ann Estis. In those plots, you can hardly see the soil for the greenery. She didn't amend the soil behind her garage, where the plants are withering.

Turn to trusted sources, Estis advises. She gets tips from experienced garden store clerks. She has turned to Google. But her favorite and steadiest resource is her mother, who lives a few blocks away and visits most days to weed and advise.

Estis also is glad she labeled her rows of vegetables. She used simple wooden sticks bearing the names of vegetables-to-come and empty seed packs, which show pictures of the mature plant and also note timelines for harvest.

Lutter-Gardella, meanwhile, has been working to protect his garden from animals that are as insistent on living as his plants. Bunnies were nibbling the stalks of the corn plants, so he put up a low fence to keep the hoppers away. He also sprinkles fox urine powder around the base of his plants and sprays a cayenne pepper wax onto plants every two weeks to repel little nibblers.

Beyond those organic protections, Lutter-Gardella has learned that trimming a plant back can enhance its production.

"I am being more bold with pruning," he said. Culling branches off his tomato plants encourages air flow, and sends more energy and nutrients to the fruit, he said. When his basil plants looked scraggly, he chopped off their tops, and they rebounded with vigor. "As long as you trim it right above an existing leaf, it will bush out more," he said.

He also recommends companion planting, in which certain plants benefit each other. The classic example is corn, squash and beans. "Corn grows tall, and beans vine up the corn stalk; squash grows low around the corn to keep down the weeds. They support each other."

Both gardeners now know that shade is not necessarily the enemy of gardens. Lutter-Gardella was surprised to find that his squash plants in partial shade look much better than those in full sun. Estis has two garden plots, and one is doing better than the other. She intends to cover the poor performer with a canopy on super-hot days on a hunch that the temporary relief from the heat will aid the plants there.

Excitement grows

When Lutter-Gardella greatly expanded his garden this year, it was with an eye toward the kind of food production that could help sustain his family. He stays busy tending his crops, but looks forward to the future. He plans to can tomatoes and also simply slice and freeze some to be added to sauces in the winter. He planted three varieties of beans. Some will be eaten off the vine, but others he expects to dry, to be prepared long after summer passes, for bean-based dishes such as burritos.

When Estis planted her garden, she hoped her enthusiasm for growing food would spread to her daughters. She now says they do more in the garden than she does, and they post pictures of their green-thumb successes on social media. Each new burst of life—a yellow bloom transforming into a squash, for instance—thrills them. Said Estis, "I come home from work and they say, 'Mom, Mom, look at this!'?"

Summer Recipe: Billy Reynolds' Corn Chowder

By JESSICA YADEGARAN
THE MERCURY NEWS

Corn cream soup with bacon chowder. (DREAMSTIME/TNS)

Growing up in North Reading, Massachusetts, Billy Reynolds spent summers on Salisbury Beach, feasting on fried whole belly clams from the seafood shack. These days, the Los Gatos, California chef and co-owner of Billy's Boston Chowder House isn't eating clams with his toes in the sand. But his authentic chowders take him and his transplanted New England customers back to those days.

This simple corn chowder, flavored with bacon and bay leaves, isn't on the restaurant's menu, but it reminds Reynolds of the comforting corn chowders his dad used to make at the peak of summer.

BILLY REYNOLDS' CORN CHOWDER

Serves 6

Ingredients

4 ears corn, husked

4 slices bacon

1 tablespoon canola oil

1 medium onion, cut in 1/2-inch dice

2 cups Russet potatoes, cut in 1/2-inch dice

2 tablespoons butter (for roux)

2 tablespoons flour (for roux)

3 cups chicken broth

3 cups milk or half-and-half

2 bay leaves

2 cans creamed corn

2 teaspoons fresh chopped parsley

Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Cook the corn in boiling water for 6 minutes. Cut in half and set aside to cool enough to handle. Cut off corn kernels and set aside.

In a large pan, sauté bacon with canola oil over medium heat until crispy, turning three or four times. Set aside until cool, then chop into 1/4-inch pieces.

In the same pan, sauté the diced onion on medium low until translucent, about 10 minutes. Add the broth, milk or half-and-half, bay leaf and bacon. Bring to a boil, then lower to medium heat and simmer for 8 minutes.

In a small saute pan, sauté the butter and flour over low heat, stirring constantly, for 3 minutes. Add a cup of the corn chowder broth to the roux, mix well, then add to large pot. Add the corn kernels and creamed corn and cook for 4 minutes. Remove bay leaf. Add parsley and salt and pepper to taste.

Life & Style

3 producers exit DeGeneres' show amid workplace complaints

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three producers of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" have exited amid allegations of a dysfunctional workplace that harbored misbehavior including sexual misconduct and racially insensitive remarks.

Executive producers Ed Glavin and Kevin Leman and co-executive producer Jonathan Norman have "parted ways" with the long-running daytime series, a spokesperson for producer Warner Bros. said in a statement Monday.

An internal company investigation of claims about the show was prompted by a BuzzFeed News report in July based on 36 interviews with ex-staffers, who complained about or said they witnessed improper and unfair treatment.

Most of the allegations were tied to executive producers and senior managers, including Glavin, Leman and Norman, BuzzFeed News said. The people making the claims against them were not identified.

A representative for Leman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday. Representatives for Glavin and Norman couldn't immediately be found.

In statements to BuzzFeed News after the July 30 story was published online, Leman denied "any kind of sexual impropriety" and Norman said he categorically denied the accusations.

DeGeneres informed staff of the shakeup Monday in a video conference call, according to Variety, which first reported the development. She said she found claims about the show's environment to be "heartbreaking," the trade publication said, citing unidentified sources.

The comedian and host had sent a memo to her staff after last month's BuzzFeed article, recalling her early promise of ensuring a workplace where "everyone would be treated with respect." Something changed, she said, "and for that, I am sorry."

The show debuted in 2003.

In a separate July statement, Warner Bros. said parent company WarnerMedia's investigation revealed what it called "some flaws in the show's daily management."

Although not all of the allegations were corroborated, the studio said it was "disappointed that the primary findings of the investigation indicated some deficiencies related to the show's day-to-day management."

No details were specified at the time, and Warner Bros. had no further comment Monday beyond confirming the producers' departures.

Rapper to pay for funeral of young girl shot in dollhouse

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Rapper and businessman Master P said he will pay for the funeral of a 3-year-old Kentucky girl who was fatally shot along with her father.

Trinity Randolph and her 21-year-old father, Brandon Waddles, died of multiple gunshot wounds Friday in Louisville, the Jefferson County coroner's office said in a statement.

The statement listed the deaths as homicides. Police have released no information on details of the shooting or information on possible suspects.

The girl's grandfather, Tyronn Howlett, said Trinity was playing in her "Frozen" dollhouse at her home when she was shot, the Courier Journal reported.

Percy Miller, known as Master P, said he would cover the girl's funeral costs.

"This is a 3-year-old innocent girl that's gone from her family, from her future, somebody who could have come out of the community and be the next president, doctor, lawyer, teacher," he told the newspaper Sunday. "This is sad."

2 men charged in '02 killing of Run-DMC star Jam Master Jay

NEW YORK (AP)—Nearly two decades after the slaying of Run-DMC star Jam Master Jay, federal prosecutors said Monday they have solved one of New York City's most enduring mysteries, charging two men from his neighborhood with murder and suggesting that the hip-hop artist—celebrated for his anti-drug stance—was ambushed over a cocaine deal.

The suspects were identified in court papers as Ronald Washington, 56, who is currently serving a federal prison sentence stemming from a string of robberies while on the run from police after Jay's 2002 death, and Karl Jordan Jr., 36, who is also charged with engaging in a cocaine distribution conspiracy in 2017.

AP

The rap group Run-DMC, from left, Joseph "Run" Simmons, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, and Jason Mizell "Jam Master Jay," poses at the 31st annual Grammy Awards in New York, on March 2, 1988.

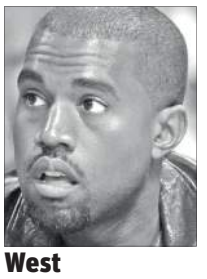
Jason "Jay" Mizell, known professionally as Jam Master Jay, formed Run-DMC with Joseph "Run" Simmons and Darryl "DMC" McDaniel in the early 1980s. Together, they helped take hip-hop mainstream with hits like "It's Tricky" and the Aerosmith remake collaboration "Walk This Way."

Jay's death, following the long unsolved slayings of rappers Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas in 1996 and Christopher "Biggie Smalls" Wallace in Los Angeles in 1997, shook the hip-hop world. Chuck D of Public Enemy compared his death to that of John Lennon. More than $60,000 in rewards was offered, but witnesses refused to come forward and the case languished.

Kanye West qualifies as presidential candidate in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Rapper Kanye West has qualified to appear on Utah's ballot this November as an unaffiliated presidential candidate, an elections official said Monday.

State Elections Director Justin Lee said his office has verified that West's campaign gathered the necessary 1,000 signatures from registered voters required to appear on the ballot.



West

West, who once backed Republican President Donald Trump, announced last month that he had broken with Trump and would launch his own presidential bid. His campaign filed paperwork on July 15 with the Federal Election Commission.

West has so far qualified in several states including Arkansas, Oklahoma and Colorado. His effort to get on the ballot has been challenged in Wisconsin.

Feds urge judge to OK prison deals for Loughlin, Giannulli

BOSTON (AP)—Federal prosecutors urged a judge Monday to accept deals that call for "Full House" actor Lori Loughlin to spend two months in prison and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, to serve five months for paying half a million dollars to bribe their daughters' way into college.

Ahead of the famous couple's scheduled sentencing hearings Friday, prosecutors said in court filings that the proposed prison terms are comparable to the sentences other prominent parents charged in the case have received, while accounting for Loughlin and Giannulli's "repeated and deliberate conduct" and their "decision to allow their children to become complicit in crime."

Prosecutors called Giannulli "the more active participant in the scheme," while they said Loughlin "took a less active role, but was nonetheless fully complicit."

Wife looks for words to heal man cut down by his mother

DEAR ABBY: My husband's mother recently told him he no longer matters to her because he is an atheist. His mother is supposedly a Christian, but she rarely acts like one. It has left my husband devastated and feeling more lonely than ever.

I can't find the right words to comfort him when he's going through something I haven't got a clue about. How do I empathize with him to let him know he did nothing wrong and that he never deserved to have those words thrown at him by his own mother?

It infuriates me, but I don't think it would be right for me to step in and talk to her directly. How do you deal with a narcissist who constantly plays the victim even after all the support you've given to her, financially and emotionally?

SUPPORTIVE WIFE IN ALABAMA

DEAR WIFE: I'm glad you asked. Explain to your husband that by emotionally abusing him this way, his mother is attempting to control him. What she said is despicable, and if he is as emotionally dependent on her as you have described, he may need counseling to get past this. The way to deal with her emotional blackmail is to distance yourselves from her financially and emotionally, because she is manipulative and toxic.

DEAR ABBY: When I was a little girl, my mother died of breast cancer. I always suspected that I might have the gene, too. To make matters worse, my dad got skin cancer a couple of years ago, meaning my risk of getting cancer is higher because of both my parents having it.

I'm turning 18 in a couple of months, and I want to get tested to see what my risk is, but I'm terrified. I sometimes feel a stabbing pain in my chest and think I feel a lump. I'm not sure if I'm imagining it due to my stress and fear or if it's true. I don't want to tell my dad until after my appointment, which I plan on doing alone. What do you think I should do? Should I tell him?

AFRAID IN FLORIDA

DEAR AFRAID: Try to calm yourself. The lump you felt may not be what you fear, but a cyst. Breast cancer in teen girls is rare, but cysts are quite common. (It might also be nothing.) That said, because of your family history, you should be checked by a doctor.

I don't believe in keeping secrets of this nature. If you would like emotional support when you get the test for the BRCA gene, your father—or a female relative—would be a logical choice to go with you. Please give it some thought.

DEAR ABBY: I have a medical alert service dog. People at the store won't leave him alone to do his job, and I don't know what to do. I don't want to be rude to these people, but my life depends on his alerting. Each time I must shop for groceries, I am very afraid. Advice?

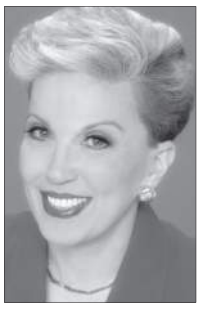
NO PETTING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR NO PETTING: You are a nice person. Too nice, in fact. When someone attempts to distract your service animal, TELL the person emphatically to stop immediately because he is on duty, working to ensure your safety, and being distracted could cost you your life. It is the truth.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

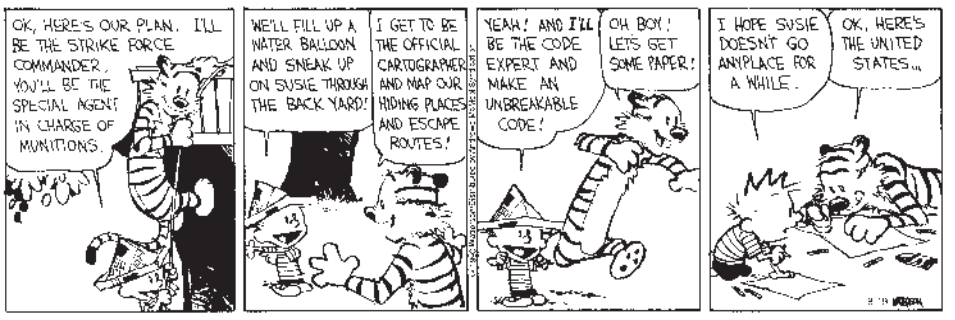


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

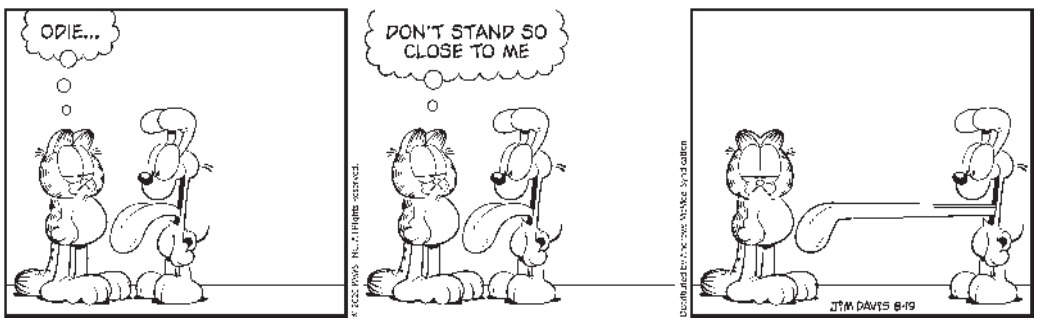
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK, HERE'S OUR PLAN. I'LL BE THE STRIKE FORCE COMMANDER, YOU'LL BE THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF MUNITIONS.
WE'LL FILL UP A WATER BALLOON AND SNEAK UP ON SUSIE THROUGH THE BACK YARD!
I GET TO BE THE OFFICIAL CARTOGRAPHER AND MAP OUR HIDING PLACES AND ESCAPE ROUTES!
YEAH! AND I'LL BE THE CODE EXPERT AND MAKE AN UNBREAKABLE CODE!
OH BOY! LETS GET SOME PAPER!
I HOPE SUSIE DOESN'T GO ANYPLACE FOR A WHILE.
OK, HERE'S THE UNITED STATES...

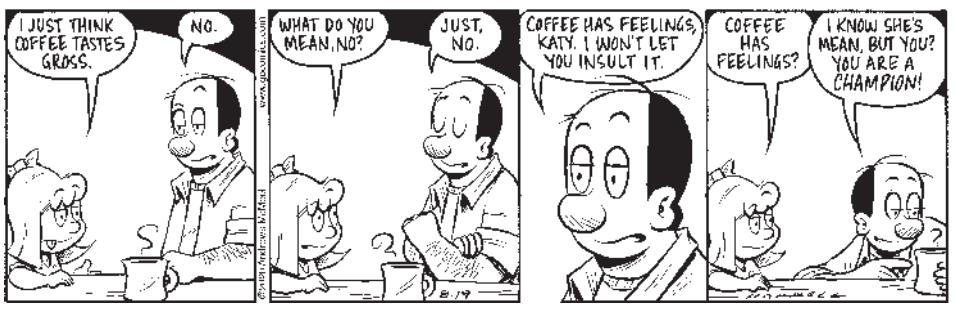
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



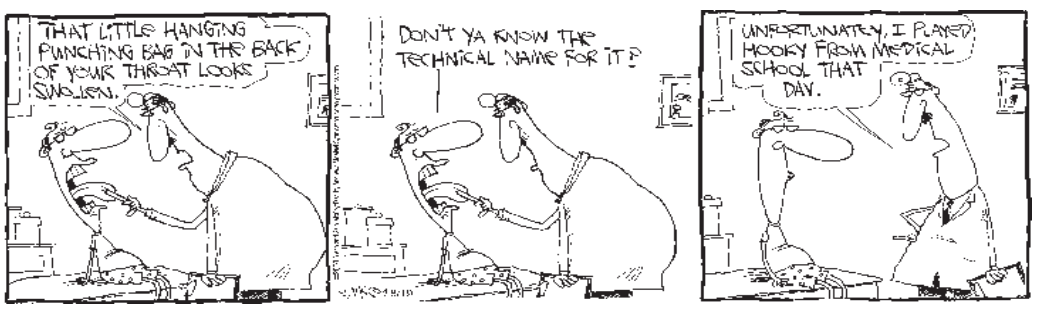
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I JUST THINK COFFEE TASTES GROSS.
NO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO?
JUST, NO.
COFFEE HAS FEELINGS, KATY. I WON'T LET YOU INSULT IT.
COFFEE HAS FEELINGS?
I KNOW SHE'S MEAN, BUT YOU? YOU ARE A CHAMPION!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THAT LITTLE HANGING PUNCHING BAG IN THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT LOOKS SINUSEN.
DON'T YA KNOW THE TECHNICAL NAME FOR IT?
UNFORTUNATELY, I PLAYED HOOKY FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL THAT DAY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Menagerie
4 Cuban money
8 Sir's counterpart
12 Hip-hop record producer Gotti
13 Rowboat needs
14 Suffix for million
15 Formerly called
16 Next-day delivery, perhaps
18 French landscape painter
20 Gmail alternative
21 Maintained
24 Mailed a tax return
28 Salad ingredient
32 Schnozz
33 "Strange Magic" gp.
34 Appointments
36 Mountain pass
37 Motion picture
39 Extend a hand (to)
41 Leafy lunch
43 Wild guess
44 Caviar
46 Shade of blue
50 The Who's "Tommy," for one
55 Eggs
56 Car bar
57 "No —!" ("Sure thing!")
58 Band's booking
59 Bard
60 Hardens
61 TV spots

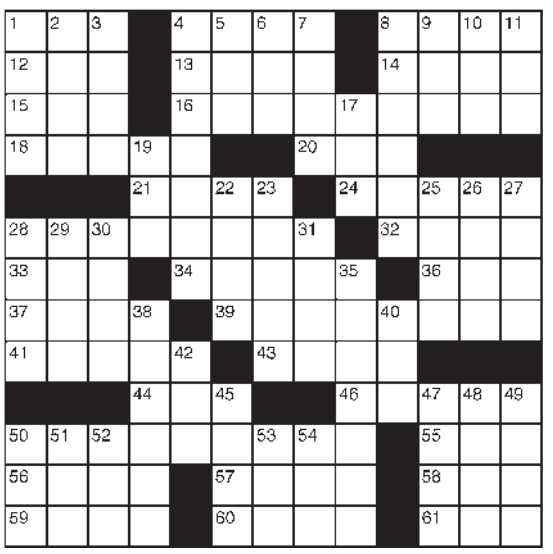
DOWN

1 Galvanizing matter
2 Layered cookie
3 Done with
4 Presage
5 Water (Fr.)
6 Soon-to-be grads
7 Fed. workplace monitor
8 Large ocean fish
9 Succor
10 "Right you —!"
11 Debussy's "La —"
17 Gut-punch reaction
19 Discoverer's call
22 Deceitful person
23 Indulges, with "on"
25 Corporate symbol
26 Jacob's brother
27 Univ. division
28 Boxing arbiters
29 Lamb alias
30 Ken or Barbie
31 Tidy
35 Egyptian amulets
38 Grocery store
40 Showtime rival
42 "Cock-a-doodle-—!"
45 "House" actor Omar
47 Meditative practice
48 Eager
49 Trails
50 Knock
51 Vegetable peeler brand
52 Browns, on scoreboards
53 Before
54 Hogwash

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	L	A	B		M	A	R	C		C	O	G
C	S	L	O		A	M	C	R		R	I	O
P	U	B	-	I	C	I	Z	E			S	O
			E	K	E	D		D	A	T	E	D
M	O	O	R	E			M		M			
I	P	S	O		V	E	R	-	I	C	A	-
F		I		H	I	F	I	S			C	E
F	E	H	M	E	N	'	S		E	Z	H	A
		A	A	R	E			S	N	E	E	R
C	A	C	A	O		N	C	R	A			
C	B	I		I	T	A	-		C		Z	E
L		Z		C	A	P	E		T	W	O	S
A	I	E		S	I	A	G		S	O	O	I

Yesterday's answer 8-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Perri, 34; Matthew Perry, 51; John Stamos, 57; Bill Clinton, 74.

Happy Birthday: Rethink your strategy, make adjustments and proceed. Acceptance and compromise will be essential if you want to achieve what you set out to do this year. If you pay attention to detail and are willing to do the work yourself, satisfaction with life and all you accomplish will turn out to be worthwhile rewards. A positive attitude will enhance your life. Your numbers are 10, 12, 17, 21, 24, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stay focused on what's important and the people who can make a difference to the way your plans unfold. Don't let a change someone makes throw you off guard. Offer others the same freedom you expect in return. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make change happen. If you want something, go after it wholeheartedly. Less talk and more action will be your ticket to a better future. Use your imagination, and you'll come up with an innovative way to get ahead. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stop worrying and start doing. Put your plans in motion, and you will improve your lifestyle, home environment and relationships with the people who matter to you most. Refuse to let someone from your past stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You won't have to stand alone if you are willing to compromise. Don't let stubbornness be an issue. Keep the peace, and you will get more than you expect in the end. A personal change will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Gather information concerning something you want to achieve. Keep an open mind, you will discover a way to overcome anything that might get in your way. Dedication and determination will set you apart from any competition you encounter. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll come up with a host of good ideas. Before you share your intentions, test your plans. Perfection will make the difference to the response you receive when trying to gain support. Celebrate your achievements with someone you love. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't let what's going on around you disrupt your day. Act according to what will benefit you and your loved ones. Consider a change at home or to your financial well-being rationally if you want to come out on top. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Run the show instead of letting someone else take over. Make suggestions that will appease anyone who may try to oppose you. Act passionately, and you will win support from fence sitters waiting for someone to make the first move. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your emotions out of the equation. Discuss matters rationally, and offer solutions that will improve your home life and your relationship with those you love. An unexpected lifestyle change is heading your way. Prepare to make adjustments without making a fuss. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be the one to take action. Don't sit around waiting to see how others respond. Focus on taking advantage of an opportunity that will safeguard you from the economic fallout. Consider home improvements, moves and cutting your overhead. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Change only what's necessary. Your best response to someone putting demands on you is to step back and observe. Choose intelligence over pleasing others. Take charge of your life, and refuse to let someone dictate what you can do. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Pay attention to what others are experiencing. Make personal improvements that boost your confidence and attract compliments. Dealing with problems that the seniors or children in your life face will bring you closer to a solution. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are precise, smart and persistent. You are entertaining and friendly.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	9					
				3				
		8	4	6	7	1		
	6			7			3	
1								2
7								1
8								3
	4			9			6	
		2	6		1	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	3	5	4	1	7	9	2	6
2	6	7	3	9	8	5	1	4
1	4	9	2	6	5	8	7	3
4	2	1	9	8	3	6	5	7
9	7	6	5	4	2	1	3	8
3	5	8	6	7	1	2	4	9
5	8	4	1	3	9	7	6	2
6	9	2	7	5	4	3	8	1
7	1	3	8	2	6	4	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THINGS THAT BITE Solution: 7 letters

R	E	B	P	L	D	D	O	N	K	E	Y	E	A	F
M	E	E	E	U	E	S	O	O	G	S	W	T	I	E
O	T	V	C	E	R	M	A	I	E	E	S	S	R	R
S	E	K	A	N	S	L	A	L	H	A	H	A	E	R
Q	G	T	L	E	A	W	I	C	E	I	G	T	H	E
U	E	I	L	S	B	D	D	L	P	U	I	U	P	T
I	C	B	I	W	O	L	F	P	O	B	M	R	O	S
T	K	B	R	C	I	S	O	C	I	A	I	T	G	D
O	O	A	O	W	H	P	A	Y	N	G	I	L	R	R
R	S	R	G	A	O	H	O	G	S	G	S	E	H	A
E	C	T	R	T	N	Y	B	E	E	T	L	E	I	Z
D	A	K	A	A	B	E	A	R	T	C	E	S	N	I
I	M	M	R	B	P	N	O	G	A	R	D	R	O	L
P	U	I	R	O	T	A	G	I	L	L	Ⓐ	Ⓝ	Ⓣ	Ⓢ
S	P	E	E	H	S	G	O	D	O	M	O	K	G	S

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Alligator, Ants, Bats, Bear, Beaver, Bees, Beetle, Bite, Camel, Chew, Cougar, Crocodiles, Dogs, Donkey, Dragon, Duck, Ferret, Fish, Fleas, Gecko, Goose, Gopher, Gorilla, Hippopotamus, Hogs, Human, Hyena, Insect, Koalas, Komodo, Lion, Lizards, Mosquito, Oyster, Parrot, Pets, Pigs, Piranha, Puma, Rabbit, Rhino, Shark, Sheep, Snake, Spider, Taste, Tiger, Turtle, Wild, Wolf

Yesterday's Answer: Wipes

Treasuries 24 through 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Clippers hold off Doncic, Mavericks

AP
Los Angeles Clippers' Patrick Beverley, bottom, fouls Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic (77) during the second quarter of Game 1 of an NBA first-round playoff series, Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

FLORIDA (AP)—Kawhi Leonard and the Clippers had enough answers to withstand Luka Doncic's record-setting debut—especially after his running mate was thrown out of the game.

Leonard had 29 points and 12 rebounds, and the Clippers got a big boost from the ejection of Kristaps Porzingis to beat the Dallas Mavericks 118-110 on Monday night in Game 1 of their Western Conference playoff series.

Doncic finished with 42 points, most ever by a player in his first postseason game, and added nine assists and seven rebounds. He had the No. 7 seed hanging right with the Clippers for much of the night.

"I mean, he's great," Leonard said.

But Los Angeles pulled into the lead when Porzingis was ejected for picking up his second technical foul in the third quarter and Doncic couldn't bring the Mavs all the way back.

"KP had my back. He did it for me. He did it for his teammate. He had my back," Doncic said. "Not just me, but the whole team appreciates that. I don't think it was fair to take him out of the game, especially in the playoffs."

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday.

Paul George added 27 points and Marcus Morris had 19 for the Clippers.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 18 points and Porzingis finished with 14, along with Seth Curry.

The Clippers knocked around Doncic, the 21-year-old superstar who led the NBA in triple-doubles, whenever they could. But he never stopped coming back at them, but late 3-pointers by Patrick Beverley and Morris finally turned Dallas back.

The turning point came much earlier.

Dallas led 71-66 with 9:10 left in third when Doncic was called for palming the ball. Morris was eager to grab the ball and ended up grabbing Doncic, who sought to push his way free. Porzingis came over and he and attempted to brush away Morris, who responded with a push. Referees gave both players technical fouls.

Porzingis had picked up his first technical foul in the first half for his reaction to a foul called when he believed he'd blocked a shot.

"I saw him getting into Luka's face and I didn't like that. That's why I reacted." Porzingis said. "That's a smart, smart thing to do from their part. I've just got to be smarter and control my emotions, especially on the first one."

Morris didn't think either player deserved a technical.

"Playoffs man, nobody should get thrown out in the playoffs," he said. "I know that really hurt their team so, not my fault though."

Crew chief Kane Fitzgerald said officials determined after watching replay that Porzingis had escalated the incident when he approached Morris.

Raptors 134, Nets 110

Fred VanVleet scored 30 points and the defending NBA champion Raptors beat the Nets.

VanVleet went 8 of 10 from 3-point range and the Raptors shot 22 of 44 from beyond the arc as a team. The Raptors' 22 3-pointers matched a season high and set a franchise playoff record.

VanVleet had 11 assists with only one turnover, becoming the first Raptor in franchise history to combine 30-plus points and 10-plus assists in a playoff game.

Serge Ibaka scored 22 points off the bench for the Raptors. Pascal Siakam had 18 points and 11 rebounds. Kyle Lowry had 16 points, seven rebounds and six assists with no turnovers.

Brooklyn's Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot scored 26 to match a career high. Joe Harris scored 19. Caris LeVert had 15 points and 15 assists, while Jarrett Allen collected 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Nuggets 135, Jazz 125, OT

Jamal Murray scored 10 of his 36 points in overtime on a day Donovan Mitchell erupted for a Jazz playoff-record 57 points as the Denver Nuggets outlasted Utah in Game 1 of their first-round series.

Nikola Jokic finished with 29 points and 10 rebounds for Denver. He had a chance to win it in regulation at the buzzer, but his right-handed hook shot over Utah's Rudy Gobert was off the mark.

Murray sealed the victory on a 3-pointer with 46.8 seconds remaining.

Mitchell was the star of the show in the absence of Mike Conley, who left the NBA bubble to return to Ohio for the birth of his son. Mitchell's scoring spree surpassed the Jazz mark of 50 by Karl Malone on April 22, 2000, against Seattle.

Mitchell was 19 of 33 from the floor and 13 of 13 from the free-throw line. He also had seven assists.

Celtics 109, 76ers 101

Jayson Tatum had career playoff highs of 32 points and 13 rebounds as the Boston Celtics beat the Philadelphia in Game 1 of their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

Jaylen Brown scored 15 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter and Kemba Walker added 19 points for the Celtics.

Joel Embiid had 26 points and 16 rebounds and Josh Richardson and Alec Burks each added 18 points for the 76ers.

Philadelphia nearly pulled off the win without All-Star guard Ben Simmons, who is out indefinitely after left knee surgery. The 76ers went on a 15-0 run late in the third quarter and led 85-81 heading into the fourth.

The Celtics went on a 9-0 run that included seven points by Brown to take a 92-86 lead. Philadelphia cut it to 103-100 on a 3-pointer by Richardson with 59 seconds remaining, but the Celtics made 6 of 6 free throws in the final minute.

LeBron on return to postseason: 'This is the toughest'

FLORIDA (AP)—LeBron James never took it for granted, no matter how routine it became.

He never counted on playing even one playoff game in a season, even long after it became viewed as a failure if he didn't play for a title. The NBA is hard. He only made it look easy.

And he said this postseason, his first in two years and the most unusual in league history, will be his most challenging yet.

"This is the toughest championship run for me personally, for the circumstances of just being in here," he said after he finished practice Monday in a Disney World convention center ballroom.

His Los Angeles Lakers cruised to the best record in the Western Conference, but there are no luxuries usually afforded the No. 1 seed. There's no celebrities sitting courtside at Staples Center to boost them. There's an opponent, the Portland Trail Blazers, who took advantage of a four-month break caused by the coronavirus pandemic to get healthy and arrive with a loaded roster that's far more talented than the average No. 8 seed.

The only sure thing this time around might be James' mind.

"As far as me locking in on an opponent and individuals, that hasn't changed," James said. "What's different is this environment. I'm not home with my family. Not in my own bed. I'm not in our practice facility. I'm not preparing to be at Staples tomorrow with our fans. I'm not with a lot of things that's essential to my everyday regimen. So that's what's different. But as far as mentally, that's always going to be sharp."

So are his skills, of course. He averaged 25.3 points and led the NBA with 10.2 assists per game, but the Lakers needed much more than that.

They needed someone to help steer them through tragedy after Kobe Bryant, one of the franchise's icons, was killed in a helicopter crash in January. And they continue to count on his experience as they deal with the obstacles of what's potentially a three-month road trip.

"He's the best leader I've ever been around and just represents all the right things," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "Oozes class and we're just lucky to have him on our squad and leading our team."

James was in the postseason every year from 2006-18 and they weren't just cameos. He never lost in the first round and didn't lose at all until the NBA Finals in the last eight years of that stretch, the first four in Miami and the last four in Cleveland.

But the first serious injury of his career, a groin injury sustained on Christmas 2018 in his first season in Los Angeles, doomed the Lakers. Their playoff hopes were long since gone when he shut it down for good at the end of March.

His return to the playoffs took longer than expected because of the season's suspension, with the usual mid-April start this time coming in mid-August. That makes it 26 months since James' last postseason game, back on June 8, 2018 in Cleveland, when the Warriors completed a sweep.

By then there was a sense that James, who would become a free agent that summer, might choose to leave the Cavaliers again.

There was no such thought it would be so long until his next postseason game.

Still, his mind is on more than basketball.

He was one of the signers Monday of an open letter written by More Than A Vote, a coalition of Black athletes and artists whose mission is to "educate, energize and protect Black voters." The coalition partnered with the Los Angeles Dodgers to use Dodger Stadium as a vote center for the presidential election in November and is aiming get more arenas and sports facilities in use.

Swanson's walk-off homer lifts Braves over Nats

ATLANTA (AP)—Dansby Swanson has never been part of a celebration like this.

No complaints.

On a night when Washington's Luis Garcia hit a homer for the ages, Swanson delivered the decisive blow for the Braves with a two-out, two-run shot in the ninth inning to cap a four-run rally that gave Atlanta a stunning 7-6 victory over the Nationals on Monday.

Adam Duvall provided hope for the home team with a two-run shot that barely cleared the left-field wall off Daniel Hudson (1-2). Then, with the Braves down to their final out, Swanson drove one over the wall in right-center for his third homer of the season.

It was the first walk-off homer of his career.

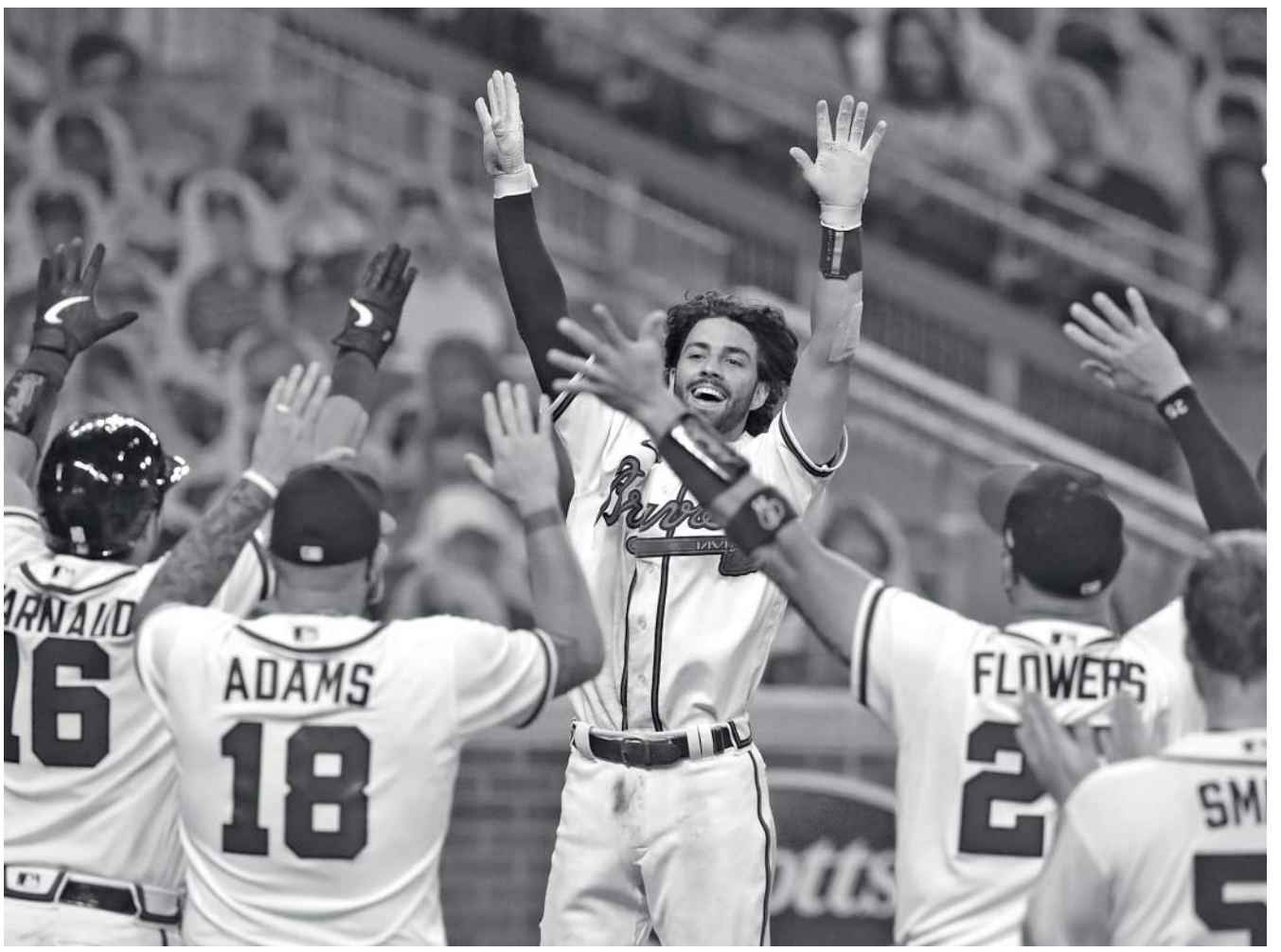
"I think I did it once when I was like 8," Swanson quipped. "But other than that, I cannot think of a time."

When he got to home plate, his teammates toasted him from afar in front of 40,000 empty seats, jumping up and down with their hands in the air to make sure they observed social distancing.

"That was the weirdest celebration," Swanson said. "I'm still a little confused what happened."

Weird, maybe, but not unusual for the Braves. Since Brian Snitker took over as manager in 2016, Atlanta has won 82 games in its final at-bat—the most of any team during that span.

The rally ruined a memorable night for Garcia, who became the first player born in the 2000s to hit a big league homer.



AP

Atlanta Braves' Dansby Swanson, center, is greeted by teammates rushing the field at home after his two-run, game ending home run in the ninth inning of the team's baseball game against the Washington Nationals on Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, in Atlanta.

White Sox 7, Tigers 2

Tim Anderson hit a pair of home runs, including his second to lead off the game against starter Matthew Boyd in six days, and the Chicago White Sox coasted past the Detroit Tigers.

Luis Robert also hit two home runs for Chicago (12-11), which had six in the game and 10 in their last two. It won for the fourth time in the last six tries to move back over the .500 mark.

White Sox starter Gio Gonzalez allowed two runs on six hits and two walks in 4 2/3 innings but remained winless this season. He struck out 10, the 15th time that he reached double figures in his career.

Dodgers 11, Mariners 9

Corey and Kyle Seager became the first brothers in 19 years to homer as opponents in the same game, and Corey's Dodgers rallied to beat Kyle and Seattle.

It was the 10th time in major league history that opposing brothers both went deep in a game. The last time was June 7, 2001, when the Crespos did it in San Francisco.

The teams combined for seven long balls,. Seattle's Evan White had his first multi-homer game, going deep twice.

Twins 4, Royals 1

Nelson Cruz homered twice, continuing his climb up the all-time leaderboard, and Minnesota beat Kansas City.

Devin Smeltzer (2-0) picked up the win in relief of opener Matt Wisler for Minnesota. Smeltzer allowed one hit in 2 2/3 innings while striking out three batters. The Twins won three of four games in the series after being swept by the Royals in Kansas City last week.

Yankees 6, Red Sox 3

Luke Voit homered twice, Aroldis Chapman returned from the COVID-19 injured list to pitch the ninth inning and New York beat Boston for the 10th straight game.

New York capped a four-game sweep and is on its best run against Boston since winning a franchise-best 12 consecutive games in 1952-53—a stretch when Red Sox star Ted Williams was serving in the Korean War.

Angels 7, Giants 6

In Anaheim, Tommy La Stella hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning, and the Angels snapped their four-game losing streak with a victory over San Francisco.

Mike Trout hit his 10th homer and Albert Pujols had a tiebreaking two-run double, but the Angels still fell behind in the sixth inning. They didn't rally until David Fletcher got a one-out single in the ninth and La Stella knocked the ball off the video board above the right field fence for his first career walk-off homer.

Diamondbacks 4, Athletics 3

David Peralta slapped a bases-loaded single through the right side of the infield with one out in the ninth inning to push Arizona past Oakland.

The Diamondbacks won their fifth straight game and are above .500 for the first time this season. They needed the ninth-inning rally after blowing a late lead.

Arizona starter Zac Gallen took a no-hitter into the sixth in his 20th career start. He gave up three hits, struck out eight, walked one, and left with a 3-1 lead.

Padres 14, Rangers 4

Fernando Tatis Jr. homered twice, including a grand slam for his major league-leading 11th of the season, and San Diego routed Texas to stop a five-game losing skid.

Tatis had a career-high seven RBI. Zach Davies (3-2) allowed three runs with six strikeouts in five-plus innings.

Jurickson Profar had a two-run double in a five-run second inning. Jake Cronenworth, Josh Naylor and Trent Grisham had the other RBI hits in the second against Jordan Lyles.

Mets 11, Marlins 4

In Miami, Robinson Cano and Pete Alonso hit two homers apiece to help the Mets beat Miami and snap a three-game losing streak.

Cano singled and hit a pair of two-run homers to hike his batting average to .412. He and Alonso delivered back-to-back homers in the sixth inning for a 10-2 lead. Alonso also singled in the third and homered in the fifth.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 2

Hyun Jin Ryu pitched six innings of four-hit ball, Randal Grichuk homered and drove in four runs and Toronto beat Baltimore.

Cavan Biggio also went deep for the Blue Jays and finished with three hits and three RBI.

Ryu (2-1) struck out three and walked none. The left-hander permitted only one runner past second base and yielded just one extra-base hit.

Astros 2, Rockies 1

Carlos Correa drove in two runs with a double to back up a strong start by rookie Brandon Bielak, and Houston beat Colorado, extending its winning streak to a season-high five games.

Bielak (3-0) allowed one hit and one run in six innings for the win in his third MLB start. He walked four and struck out four.

Brooks Raley took over for Bielak and struck out two in 1 1/3 innings. Josh James got the last two outs of the eighth before Blake Taylor allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth for his first save.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 1, Game 1
Cubs 5, Cardinals 4, Game 2

David Bote hit a three-run homer in Chicago's four-run sixth inning, and the Cubs beat St. Louis for a doubleheader split.

With two outs and runners on the corners, Bote put Chicago ahead to stay with a massive drive to center field off Tyler Webb (0-1) for his second career pinch-hit homer.

Chicago was still searching for its first hit before Willson Contreras doubled home Javier Baez earlier in the inning, setting the stage for Bote's third homer of the season.

Augusta National won't allow fans at the Masters

The 2020 Masters, which was moved from April to Nov. due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be played in front of empty galleries.

Fred Ridley, chairman of Augusta National Golf Club, announced on Wednesday that no guests or fans will be admitted to the Masters this year.

"Since our initial announcement to postpone the 2020 Masters, we have remained committed to a rescheduled Tournament in November while continually examining how best to host a global sporting event amid this pandemic," Ridley said in a statement. "As we have considered the issues facing us, the health and safety of everyone associated with the Masters always has been our first and most important priority."

"Throughout this process, we have consulted with health officials and a variety of subject matt experts. Ultimately, we determined that the potential risks of welcoming patrons and guests to our grounds in November are simply too significant to overcome."

The roaring crowds at the Masters are part of what makes it "a tradition unlike any other," so it will be supremely weird to hear silence on the broadcast, and see nothing but empty space underneath the famous leaderboard. But a number of tournaments have been played without fans in recent months, and while it's been strange it's certainly bet- r than the alternative, which is no golf at all.

"Even in the current circumstances, staging the Masters without patrons is deeply disappointing," Ridley said. "The guests who come to Augusta each spring from around the world are a key component to making the Tournament so special. Augusta National has the responsibility, however, to understand and accept the challenges associated with this virus and take the necessary precautions to conduct all aspects of the Tournament in a safe manner. We look forward to the day when we can welcome all of our patrons back, hopefully in April 2021.

"We appreciate the support and patience of all those we serve—including the Augusta community, our corporate and broadcast partners and our friends in golf—as we continue to plan for this historic event."

The Masters will be played Nov. 12-15. Those with tickets to the 2020 tournament will receive the same tickets for the 2021 tournament. ***(NBC)***

Chiefs to allow 15K fans in season opener

KANSAS CITY—There will be fans at Arrowhead Stadium when the Kansas City Chiefs kick off the 2020 NFL season against the Houston Texans on Sept. 10.

The defending Super Bowl champions said Monday that Arrowhead Stadium could host up to 22 percent capacity during the season. With a max capacity at more than 76,000, the stadium could have more than 15,000 in attendance as the Chiefs play their first game at home since beating the 49ers in Super Bowl LIV.

The Chiefs said their plan to host thousands of fans had been approved by the mayor of Kansas City and the city's health and emergency management directors.

Season-ticket holders have the first chance to purchase tickets for the game on Aug. 24. The team said it would be implementing a pod-based seating system.

"Tickets will be sold in grouped pods of seats, with the ability to purchase as many as six seats in the same pod through the online process. Fans will be required to attend with known guests sitting within their purchased pod," the team announced.

AP

In this Jan. 12, 2020 file photo, Kansas City Chiefs fans at Arrowhead stadium watch the action in their AFC Divisional round playoff NFL game against the Houston Texans Kansas City, Mo.

The Chiefs said there was a "potential" that capacity limits at Arrowhead could be raised throughout the season.

All fans attending the game will be mandated to wear a mask when not eating or drinking and refrain from smoking or spitting. The Chiefs also said that "while fans are asked to bring their own mask to use upon entering the complex, the Chiefs will provide a commemorative mask to all fans who attend the first three games."

It'll be fun to see how much some of those masks go for on eBay in the days after the season opener.

The Chiefs are also recommending restrictions on tailgating. And we all know how big of a deal tailgating is before games in Kansas City. Per the team, "tailgating will be allowed in the parking lot, but guests should only use the tailgate area behind their vehicle to maintain proper physical distancing between groups. Fans are encouraged to wear masks in parking areas as well."

The game against the Texans is a rematch of the January AFC Divisional round game between the teams. Houston famously jumped out to a 24-0 lead before the Chiefs stormed back to take the lead before halftime and win 51-31.

Ravens welcome 'escape" from COVID-19

After being tested for coronavirus outside the building, donning masks and carefully practicing social distancing in the locker room, the Baltimore Ravens enjoyed a bit of normalcy Monday with their first full-team workout in pads.

With the exception of the masks on members of the coaching staff and the absence of fans in the stands, the 90-minute session had the look of a routine training camp practice.

"Being back out there with the guys, getting a sweat going, stopping the plays and having contact, for just a brief moment it felt like we didn't have to worry about the virus," Pro Bowl linebacker Matthew Judon said. "It felt good to be back in the pads."

Judon, who accepted the franchise tag during the offseason, acknowledged that "football is different" during this pandemic. But the Ravens are safely and carefully moving forward, along with the 31 other teams, hoping to play a season that will surely be unlike any other.

There probably won't be fans in the stands at most stadiums. Yet coach John Harbaugh still had loud music blaring from speakers in the end zone while the offense ran plays in an effort to simulate the noise of a crowd.

"It's what we do. It's fun. I think it's good for the guys," Harbaugh said. "It's a valuable tool and I think we all enjoy it."

The Ravens' 14-2 record during the regular season was the best in the NFL last year, but a loss to Tennessee in their playoff opener left them with a bitter feeling and provided incentive to end this season on a far happier note.

The process began two weeks ago when the team reported to camp, and being on the field in pads was the next step toward reaching the Super Bowl.

"We've got a great team. We've got a lot of confident players, a lot of confident coaches that trust in us," right offensive tackle Orlando Brown Jr. said. "It was just exciting to get out there and play some real ball with the pads on, being able to physically grab and move guys. There was a whole other level of energy today." ***(AP/NBC)***

MGA

From Page 20

sling-stone shaped golf balls.

Meanwhile, MGA also welcomed two new members—Terlaje and Guerrero—during last weekend's competition and encouraged interested players to join the group. MGA's season just started in May, so player still have several chances to play in the association's monthly tournaments. Membership fees are only $40 for newcomers and $30 for returnees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vicente "Guelo" Rosario uses his Chamorro sling to play the whole 18 holes in the Kingfisher Golf Links during the Marianas Golf Association August Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday.

CHALLENGE

From Page 20

said Antonio, who figured in a nasty bike accident several months ago.

He completed the task after 13 days, as he logged 800 meters or 1,000m every day. Not bad for someone who learned to swim when he was already 48 years old.

"I learned to swim from Joshua Berger and Stuart Smith. I just had my follow-up checkup with my doctor and he said I can bike now. I am getting better, but I will still take it slow and continue to swim," said Antonio, who competed in various triathlon events on island.

Meanwhile, other Saipan participants who stood out in the Go The Distance Challenge were Taro Goto and Yulia Aleksenko. Goto recorded 311.64 miles in the run race (requirement was 100 miles), while Aleksenko ruled the women's swim event with her 70.58 miles.

Guam's Amanda Walsh (60.09 miles) was second in the women's swim race, while Lauren Agar and Sharon Hawley, also from the host island, got the Top 2 finish in the women's run division after logging 485.90 miles and 463.06 miles, respectively.

The Go The Distance Challenge was organized to raise funds for the frontliners helping in our battle against the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage people to return to their sports/activities in a safe and responsible manner.

TRIATHLON CNMI

Mark Isip races in the 2018 Hell of Marianas. Isip logged the most miles in the Go The Distance Challenge.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vernice Ronda Estepa, left, joins her friends for a group photo at the American Memorial Park before heading out to their bike course.

Clippers hold off Doncic, Mavericks

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Swanson's walk-off homer lifts Braves over Nats

PAGE 18

Challenge exceeded!

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan dominated the Go The Distance Challenge with the Top 2 overall finishers reaching past the required distance in their respective events.

In the 300-mile bike division of the virtual race, which was organized by Urban Fitness Project Team from Guam and had participants urged to complete their event for one month (July 1 to 31), Saipan had a sweep with Vernice Ronda Estepa and Sheila Isla taking the Top 2 spots in the women's division and Mark Isip and Pax Guevarra duplicating the feat in the men's side.

Estepa logged 931.12 miles, more than three times the required distance, as she completed the event way ahead of schedule. Isla recorded 785.78 miles, while Isip and Guevera registered 2,231.46 and 1,756.93 miles, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Vernice Ronda Estepa, left, and Florence Antonio, seen here competing in local races, reached past the required miles in the Go The Distance Challenge.

"I finished the 300 miles last July 12 and decided to add up miles not to limit my challenge but to challenge my limits," said Estepa.

The top finisher biked four times a week with her friends and their usual route was from American Memorial Park to the Airport Road and Banzai Cliff and back. Estepa's longest ride in a day was at the 68.76-mile mark.

In the swim part, sexagenarian Florence Antonio also exceeded the required distance (30-mile) as he posted 85.65 miles.

"I swam every day for one month in the Guma Sakman area and sometimes all the way to the 'Tank' in Quartermaster," the 61-year-old said.

Antonio would have joined the bike race, but he went under the knife and was advice to stay away from biking and walking.

"Swimming was the only form of exercise I am allowed to do that time. It's my therapy. I was not really concern about finishing or topping the race, I just want my back to heal,"

See CHALLENGE on Page 19

Dela Cruz gets MGA August Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Golf Association vice president Joey Dela Cruz took the MGA August Ace last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The 11-handicapper fired a 40 on the front and improved his scores on the back with a 36 for a gross 76 and net 65. Dela Cruz finished second behind Chris Leon Guerrero in the low net category and since the latter had already secured the June Ace, the former was handed this month's title. Deleon Guerrero, who had a 24 handicap, carded a gross 87 and net 63 after drilling a 47 in the first nine holes and 40 in the last.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joey Dela Cruz gets ready for a shot during an off-island tournament.

Junior golfer Sebastian Camacho rounded out the Top 3 in after registering a net 68. The 6-handicapper showed consistency at the Talafofo course with his par of 37s for a gross 74, the second-best score in the 23-field. Harry Nakamura, who landed at fourth place in the low net category, had the lowest gross with a 2-under par 70 as he tallied a 36 on the front and 34 on the back. Nakamura also posted a net 68, but lost the battle for third to Camacho via scorecard.

Rounding out last Saturday's participants in the MGA August Ace of the Month Tournament were John Sablan (net 69), Ned Norita (70), Mel Sablan (71), Isaac Aguon (71), Dung Tenorio (72), Patrick George (72), Calvin Yamagishi (72), Shine Tenorio (76), James Benavente (77), Benjie Pangelinan (77), Victor Salas (77), Herman Kintol (77), J.J, Atalig (78), Jeff Tomokane (81), Don Hallmark (81), Patrick Guerrero (82), Eric David (83), and John Terlaje (86).

In the closest to the pin contest, Atalig won in hole Nos. 8 and 15, while Nakamura and Shine Tenorio prevailed on No. 12 and 6, respectively.

Chamorro sling in golf course

MGA had a guest player for the August tournament with Vicente "Guelo" Rosario showing up at the course and playing the whole 18 holes using his Chamorro sling and

See MGA on Page 19